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TO

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report.)

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D

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Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan. [Tippera (Non-Muhammadan).]

F

Faroqui, K. G. M. [Tippera (Muhammadan).]
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

G

Ghatak, Rai Sahib Nilmani [Malda (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ghose, Mr. D. C. [24-Parganas Rural South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder. (Calcutta University).
Gordon, Mr. A. D. (Indian Tea Association).
Gupta, Mr. N. B. (Nominated Official).

H

Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl ul. [Khulna (Muhammadan).]
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul. [Tippera (Muhammadan).]
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S. (Nominated Official.)
Hornell, Mr. W. W. (Nominated Official.)
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul. [Murshidabad (Muhammadan).]
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur. [Burdwan Division North (Muhammadan).]

J

James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)
Janah, Babu Sarat Chandra. [Midnapore South (Non-Muhammadan).]

K

Karim, Maulvi Abdul. [Faridpur North (Muhammadan).]
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal. [Bakarganj South (Muhammadan).]
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. [Member, Executive Council.]
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din. [Rangpur East (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin. [Mymensingh East (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman. [Calcutta North (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Raja Narendra Lal. [Midnapore North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammadan Ershad Ali. [Rajshahi North (Muhammadan).]

L

Lang, Mr. J. (Nominated Official.)
Larmour, Mr. F. A. (Calcutta Trades Association.)
Law, Raja Reshee Case. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)
Lees, Mr. D. H. (Nominated Official.)

M

Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble. (Member, Executive Council.)
Maitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath. [Faridpur North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Makramali, Munshi. [Noakhali (Muhammadan).]
Mari, Mr. A. (Nominated Official.)
McKenzie, Mr. D. P. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra. [Hooghly Municipal (Non-Muhammadan).]
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. Provash Chunder. (Minister, Presidency Landholders.)
Morgan, Mr. G. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Rural (Non Muhammadan).]

Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon [Howrah Municipalities (Non-Muhammadan)]

Mukherji, Professor Satish Chandra (The Indian Christian Community.)

Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra [Midnapore South (Non-Muhammadan)]

Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary. [Bakarganj South (Non-Muhammadan)]

Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath [Calcutta South (Non Muhammadan).

N

Nakey Mirza Muhammad Ali [24-Parganas Municipal South (Muhammadan)]

Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra [24-Parganas Rural Central (Non Muhammadan)]

O

O'Malley, Mr L S S (Nominated Official)

P

Pahlowan, Maulvi Md Abdul Jubbar [Mymensingh West (Muhammadan)]

Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan. [Calcutta East (Non-Muhammadan)]

Poddar, Babu Keshoram. (Bengal Marwari Association.)

Pugh, Colonel A J. [Presidency and Burdwan (European)]

R

Rae, Mr. W R. [Presidency and Burdwan (European)]

Raheem, Mr Abdur. (Nominated.)

Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-. (Member, Executive Council)

Raikat, Mr Prasanna Deb [Jalpaiguri (Non-Muhammadan)]

Raut, Maulvi Shah Abdur. [Rangpur West (Muhammadan).]

Ray, Babu Bhabendra Chandra. [Jessore North (Non-Muhammadan).]

Ray, Babu Surendra Nath. [Deputy-President, 24-Parganas Municipal South (Non-Muhammadan).]

Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar. (Rajshahi Landholders.)

Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal. (Chittagong Landholders.)

Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor. (Dacca Landholders.)

Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra. (Labouring Classes.)

Ray, Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath. [Mymensingh West Non-Muhammadan).]

Rhodes, Mr. C. W. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B. (Nominated Official.)
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna. [Faridpur South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath. [Dacca Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath. [Jessore South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra. [Nadia (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. J. E. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan. (Bengal Mahajan Sabha.)
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh. (Burdwan Landholders.)
Roy, Raja Manilall Singh. [Burdwan (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath. [Khulna (Non-Muhammadan).]

S

Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus. [Jessore North (Muhammadan).]
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra. [Rangpur (Non-Muhammadan).]
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath. [Bankura West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan. [Murshidabad (Non-Muhammadan).]
Stark, Mr. H. A. (Anglo-Indian.)
Stephenson, Mr. H. L. (Nominated Official.)
Suhrawardy, Dr. A. [Dacca West Rural (Muhammadan).]
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S. [Burdwan Division South (Muhammadan).]
Suhrawardy, Mr. Z. R. Zahid. [Calcutta South (Muhammadan).]
Swan, Mr. J. A. L. (Nominated Official.)

T

Travers, Mr. W. L. [Rajshahi (European).]

W

Walsh, Mr. C. P. (Nominated Official.)
Watson-Smyth, Mr. R. M. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry. (Member, Executive Council.)
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C. (Nominated Official.)

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report of the First Session.)

VOLUME I—No. 1.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Friday, the 28th January, 1921, at 3 P. M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Executive Members of Government, the Hon'ble the three Ministers and 118 nominated and elected members.

Oaths.

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the three Ministers and each nominated or elected member present made an oath or affirmation of his allegiance to the Crown.

Adjournment.

The Council was adjourned to 11 A. M. on Monday, the 31st January, 1921, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under tl provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Ca cutta, on Monday, the 31st January, 1921, at 11 A.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the Executive Members o Government, the Hon'ble the two Ministers and 34 nominated an elected members.

Oaths.

The following members made an affirmation of their allegiance t the Crown:—

Raja Manilall Singh Roy,
Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri,
Babu Nalini Nath Roy,
Babu Sailaja Nath Roy Chaudhuri,
Mr. Prasanna Deb Raikut.

Adjournment.

The Council was adjourned to 10-15 A.M. on Tuesday, the 1st Feb ruary, 1921, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Inaugural Ceremony of the Bengal Legislative Council on the 1st February, 1921.

THE Council was assembled at the Town Hall, Calcutta, at 11 A.M. on the 1st February, 1921, all the members being present except six.

At 10-45 A.M. His Excellency the Governor of Bengal entered the Council Chamber in State accompanied by the Hon'ble the President and took his seat on the dais.

At 10-55 A.M. Field-Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught entered the Council Chamber in State.

Field-Marshal HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS the DUKE of CONNAUGHT took his seat on the throne.

His Excellency the Governor's address.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR of BENGAL (the Earl of Ronaldshay): YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, We deeply appreciate and are profoundly grateful for your presence here to-day for the purpose of inaugurating the new constitution conferred by Parliament upon the people of this Presidency. And we see in this gracious act yet one more signal proof—if proof, indeed, were needed—of the close and unceasing personal interest taken by His Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor and his Royal House in all that appertains to the welfare and progress of the people of his Indian Empire. The occasion is an historic one and will for all time stand out as an arresting finger-post upon the road leading to that goal towards which India is eagerly travelling. SIR, when in this connection we speak in the language of metaphor of a goal towards which we are travelling, the picture which forms itself upon the screen of our consciousness is that of some splendid edifice rising through the haze of distance upon the horizon and shaping itself in ever clearer outline to our gaze as we travel towards it along a broad highway. We are, perhaps, apt to overlook the difference which exists between distance in time and distance in space. In the evolution of a nation, though the goal may be pictured, the gulf to be bridged before we reach it is one of time and not one of space, and every inch of the road thither has still, therefore, to be made. The survey may have been carried out and the direction posts set up, but the actual road must be builded day by day by the nation itself as it moves forward on its onward course, and upon those who lead the nation rests the responsibility for its safe construction. The

responsibility is one not to be lightly assumed, for upon the wise discharge of it hangs the fate of countless numbers of their fellowmen. It is comparable to that of the Generals of an Army who, though provided by their expert advisers with a safe survey of the ground to be traversed, are yet tempted to adopt a line of advance, apparently more direct but fraught with dangers to which they wilfully close their eyes. Wisdom and experience urge one course, impetuosity, ill-directed enthusiasm, possibly other motives as well, urge the other. The test of their fitness to be entrusted with responsibility lies in their choice. Would the Army which puts its trust in them, or would posterity forgive them if choosing fatefully and rashly, they were to lead it into an engulfing quicksand of tribulation and disaster?

Sir, those who are at once the representatives and the leaders of the people who are assembled here to-day have made their choice. They have accepted the alignment marked out for them along solid ground. And the task which now lies before them is the actual construction of the road. No easy one but a great and worthy one, and one moreover in which the rapidity with which it is completed, will be commensurate with the nature of the workmanship put in. All the greater is the care required on account of the novelty of some of the tools now being placed for the first time in the hands of those to whom the work has been committed.

It is easy to give concrete illustration of this latter statement. For the vast majority of those who now exercise it, the franchise is a hitherto untried implement. Prior to this the members of the Legislature have been nominated thereto or elected by strictly circumscribed electorates. Generally speaking the vote has been the prerogative of a limited number of persons enjoyed by reasons of the special position which they occupied, such as membership of a Municipal or District Board or of a special Association, such as a Chamber of Commerce or the University Senate, or of a special community, such as the great landholders of the Presidency. With such elections the mass of the people have had no concern. And the total number of electors of all classes who have had any share in returning members to the Legislative Council of the past has not exceeded 12,000. As compared with this, the persons entitled to return members to the Legislative Council which meets for the first time to-day, number approximately one million twenty thousand—a sufficiently dramatic indication of the extent to which power has been conferred upon the people. Equally significant is the revolution wrought in the composition and character of the Council itself. The former Council consisted of 53 members; the present Council of 139. Of the former body 28 members only, or a bare majority were elected, of the total of the present body 113 or 81 per cent. Of the former body a little over one-third were officials; of the present body 13 per cent. only. Such figures speak for themselves. But the immensity of the stride which has been taken towards the goal

of responsible self-government cannot be fully appreciated without a reference to the complete change which has simultaneously been effected in the Executive Government. In place of an Executive consisting, apart from the Governor, of two European officials and one Indian non-official gentleman, there has now been established an Executive of two European officials and five Indian non-official gentlemen; in other words, the Indian element in the Executive Government of the country has been converted from a permanent minority to a permanent and overwhelming majority. Further, of the five Indian Members of the Government, three are elected Members of this Council, and in respect of the subjects which they administer including such vitally important matters as Local Self-Government, Public Health, Medical Administration, Education, Agriculture, the development of Industries, the Administration of Excise and of Public Works, stand *vis-a-vis* the Council in a position which, if not wholly identical with, is at least analogous to, that of Members of the Cabinet to the Parliament of Great Britain. These are momentous changes the mere enumeration of which is, perhaps, sufficient to justify the emphasis which I have laid upon the necessity for the exercise of extreme care in the building of every successive foot of the road which is the task which now awaits us. My personal experience of the high devotion to duty and the broad and sympathetic vision of the officials with whom I am proud to have been associated in the Government of Bengal during the past four years; of the intellectual ability, the courtesy and the warm-hearted generosity of spirit of the people of Bengal, and of the disinterested advice and the assistance which I have invariably received from the non-official members of my own community, encourage me to regard the future with high hope. The fact that this Council meets to-day in the second city in the whole vast Empire over which His Majesty holds sway, bears striking testimony to the nature of the contribution which the representatives of the European community can make to the common stock of our available resources. And, indeed, it would be difficult to conceive of a more effective combination of qualities than those of the two great communities now ranged side by side—the shrewd business acumen of the one and the inspired idealism of the other. One thing only is necessary to render operative in this unique combination its tremendous potentialities—the will to succeed. It is given to every man to contribute something towards this, the supreme necessity of the day, the creating of a will to co-operate—a will to succeed. And for myself I joyfully dedicate the remainder of my term of service in Bengal to the furtherance of a steadily growing partnership between the Bengali and British races, and offer the hand of help and friendship to all who, inspired by a common purpose—the orderly progress of this land towards its appointed destiny—are prepared to work wholeheartedly for the effacement of all obstacles standing in the way of cordial co-operation in the supreme interests of the common weal.

Field-Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught's address.

Field-Marshal HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS the DUKE of CONNAUGHT: Your Excellency and Gentlemen of the Bengal Legislative Council, To-day it is my pleasing task to open the second of that series of new Legislatures which, by command of His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor, I have come to India to inaugurate. The King-Emperor has commissioned me to bring you His cordial good wishes on an occasion which Your Excellency justly terms historic. You all know His Imperial Majesty's regard for this proud city of Calcutta, and for the people of Bengal; and I can assure you of the deep interest with which he watches the far-reaching changes beginning with the ceremony of to-day.

Upon the pleasure which it gives me personally to perform this duty, I need not dwell; nor upon my gratification at the warmth of your welcome. Though more directly acquainted, during my past sojourn in India, with a presidency with which you maintain a healthy and generous rivalry I should be the last to deny the eminence of Bengal among the provinces of the Indian Empire, or the unique connexion of Calcutta with the administrative developments which have marked the long and momentous association between the United Kingdom and this country.

It is that eminence and this connexion which will direct upon the deliberations of your Council the anxious gaze of all who, like myself, cherish great expectations of the era which is dawning upon the Indian Empire. Anxious, I say, because the task imposed on you and the sister Legislatures which are coming simultaneously into being, is a task of no ordinary complexion. You have to take at once a heavy and responsible share in providing the laws and finance for a skilled and highly technical administration. In one area, by no means small or unimportant, of the administrative field, your responsibility will be closer. For within it, the policy and conduct of the actual executive will repose on the shoulders of Ministers drawn from your ranks; and it will be for you to advise, support, and, where necessary, criticise and control them in their course. But, while thus engaged on the one hand, on the other you will ever have to bear in mind the people in whose name you act, and to remember that the progress of the country must remain imperfect so long as the great majority of them, so long indeed as any substantial section of them, are unable to follow your work with intelligence. The training and expansion of the electorate will be just as much your duty as the conduct and direction of the administration. All these varied parts you will have to play with a sobriety of language, a sanity of judgment, an impartiality of decision, a freedom from passion and prejudice, which will not only satisfy critics

of the new constitution, but will justify a jury of the British Parliament ten years hence in enlarging the scope of your administrative activities.

In this labyrinth of cares and labours, what clue can I suggest for your guidance? To my mind, as I am sure to yours, there is only one, that your sole thought should always be the betterment of your countrymen, and not of any class or section, but of all. The test by which political assemblies are judged, all the world over, is not ingenuity of dialectic or mere political craftsmanship, but the good Government of the people and the progress of the Country. In that respect your programme is heavy indeed. There are at least three vast problems with which you will at once come to grips; they are within the sphere of Ministers, and are of special prominence in Bengal. One is the intense popular demand for education, and the provision, in response thereto, of a type of education which will fit the rising generation to be good citizens. The second, in reality complementary to the first, is the creation of industrial opportunities and an industrial spirit, to relieve the tremendous pressure on the land and the economic evils which must result. The third is a higher standard of health and vitality, particularly among the inhabitants of your wide malarial tracts. In the field of material progress there could be few problems of more surpassing difficulty than these three. There could also be few more costly; and this consideration is a special anxiety to you in Bengal where, I understand, the public revenues are circumscribed and somewhat inelastic. The solution of these questions and their finance will call for equally heroic treatment.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, you will not expect me to attempt a survey of your future labours. They will range from such matters as I have mentioned to those infinitely delicate questions of social emancipation in which India will look to Bengal, as so often in the past, to take the lead. Believe me, the magnitude of your task is realised, and its difficulties are appreciated by those of us who will be watching you, with friendly and sympathetic eyes, during the years which lie ahead. We hope for your success; we are cheered by auguries of it to-day. There could be no finer augury than the striking address which has just been delivered by His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay, your sympathetic and stout-hearted Governor. For to him it is certain that you will always be able to turn for help and advice; and, I am sure, to the officers who serve under him, and to his and their successors. But the happiest augury of all is in yourselves. In the political progress of India the Bengali race has ever been in the van, its leaders, endowed with oratory and brilliance of intellect, have inspired the cause of reform; in the sphere of literature, philosophy, science and art its gifts have been strikingly displayed; in the realms of jurisprudence and public life its sons have been conspicuous figures.

Associated in Council with the leaders of Bengal will be the European fellow-citizens, official and non-official, to whose peculiar genius the India of to-day owes both its system of orderly administration and its great commercial and industrial connexions with the world at large. In this combination I see grounds for the highest expectations. Working side by side, mindful of each other's interests and ideals, ever bending their minds to cordial co-operation, the leaders of the Bengali and the British communities will, I earnestly pray, so serve this great province that it will ere long attain a position of fresh lustre, happiness and prosperity in the confederation of the British Empire.

I now formally declare the Legislative Council of Bengal, as constituted under the Government of India Act, 1919, to be duly open. (Applause).

President's reply.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): MAY IT PLEASE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS,—On behalf of the Members of this Council, it is my privilege respectfully to acknowledge the gracious message of His Majesty the King-Emperor which your Royal Highness has just delivered. In the discharge of the duties that lie before us, this message will always continue to inspire and stimulate us. We pray that your Royal Highness may be pleased to convey to His Majesty the assurance of the loyalty and devotion of the people of Bengal to His Majesty's throne and person. (Applause).

His Royal Highness, His Excellency the Governor, and the Hon'ble the President then left the Chamber in procession.

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report of the First Session.)

VOLUME I—No. 2.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Monday, the 7th February, 1921, at 11 A.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Executive Members, the Hon'ble the three Ministers and 122 nominated and elected members.

Oaths.

The following members made an oath or affirmation of their allegiance to the Crown:—

MR. D. P. MCKENZIE.
MR. W. L. TRAVERS, O.B.E.
RAJA NARENDRA LAL KHAN.

President's Speech.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): It is my first duty to communicate to you that on the 1st instant, His Excellency the Governor requested the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State to communicate the following message to His Majesty the King-Emperor:

"I have the honour to inform Your Majesty that the new constitution in Bengal was successfully inaugurated by Field-Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught to-day. The new Legislative Council expresses, through the mouth of its President, its devotion to Your Majesty's throne and person, and desires respectfully to tender to Your Majesty its loyal homage."

The following reply has been received from the Secretary of State for India:

"Your telegram of the 1st instant. I have laid your message before the King and he commands me to express to you and the Bengal

Legislative Council his gratification at the successful opening of the Council, and his appreciation of the Council's message of loyalty."

The Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State has sent a message on his own behalf which runs as follows:

"May I send to you my warmest good wishes for the future of your Legislative Council inaugurated to-day."

Gentlemen, before commencing the business on to-day's list, I ask your permission to say a few words welcoming you most heartily to this Council. I would also wish in doing so to add a few words regarding our duties and responsibilities as members of this Council. I know that in this Council there are a number of official and non-official members who have much greater experience of the work of the Council than I possess. At the same time there are those who are new to the work of the Council, and my remarks will be especially addressed to them. In order to be able successfully to discharge our duties it is necessary that we should clearly realise our responsibilities, and that is only possible if we have a clear conception of what our powers are, power and responsibility go together. As regards the powers of this Council, I need only refer to the new Act, the Government of India Act of 1919. There has been, no doubt, an attempt in some quarters to minimise the effect of that Act. For my part I am convinced that the Act gives us very large powers in comparison with the powers that we have had before. The effect of the new measure is an expansion of the powers of the Legislature in two distinct ways. In the first place, in all the Councils you have a majority of elected or non-official members. In the second place, the new Councils possess very much larger powers of control over the budget than the Council had before. There are now two Councils which will deal with Imperial matters, the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly. In the Council of State the total number of members fixed by the Act is 60, of whom not more than 20 are to be officials. In the Legislative Assembly the total number is fixed at 140 and the number of nominated or non-elected members is only 40, and the elected members are 100. The number can be changed by the rules, but in any case, at least five-sevenths of the members must be elected. In the local Legislative Councils the minimum number under the Act is 125, of whom not more than 20 per cent are to be official members, which is a very large percentage of non-official members compared with the constitution of the previous Council. At least 70 per cent are to be elected members, but the rules under the Act have increased the number to 139, excluding the President; the number is distributed as follows:

Members of the Executive Council . ..	4
Nominated members	22
Elected members	113

The subjects are divided into central and provincial subjects. The representatives that you send to the Legislative Assembly would, I am sure, be able to protect the interests of the province in that Assembly. So far as this Council is concerned, its powers, as I have said, have been considerably increased in the directions I have mentioned. In entering into the execution of our duties we do so with no light heart. The responsibilities before us are very great and our future would depend on the way we try to discharge those responsibilities. The first thing we have to do is to raise the dignity of the Council by a strict observance of the rules which have been laid down for the conduct of the members. It is only when we have done this, and we have exercised our powers in such a way as to establish confidence in our capacity to discharge the duties that are entrusted to us, that we can succeed in getting further powers.

As I have said, we are given very large powers ourselves. The provincial subjects have been divided into reserved and transferred subjects. We have a great voice in both, but as regards the transferred subjects our voice is much stronger, and these subjects include the very important departments of Government such as Education, Agriculture, Excise, Public Works, etc., and these subjects are to be administered by Ministers who are chosen from among the representatives of the people returned to this Council. You will therefore see that our powers are very considerable. But, as I have said, we are now on the road to great political progress. I am convinced of the sincerity of the desire on the part of the English people to be fair to India and to give to us what is our birthright when we have qualified ourselves to manage our own affairs. We are on the road to progress, we are on probation for 10 years, and if within the 10 years we show that we are capable of taking care of ourselves, I feel no doubt that our full rights will be given to us. There is a danger in impatience, impatience may be patriotic, but still there is danger in it. We want above all a safe road by which to travel, the journey may be a distant one, but let us fix our eyes on the future and try to be true to ourselves and to our country.

No doubt I must admit that the powers and privileges that have been given to this Council are circumscribed in several respects, but I am confident that in the course of time this will disappear. That has been considered essential, I believe, because we are serving a term of probation. My experience is that special powers given like these, given to the executive, are seldom exercised so long as those exercising the powers had good reason, and I feel no doubt that in the discharge of the duties entrusted to you, you will try to be reasonable in every way.

To my mind there can be no doubt that the angle of vision in England has changed. The first indication of it is to be found in the new

Act, and I may also refer to another indication, and it is the appointment of an Indian to the highest administrative post in a neighbouring province, and Bengal may well be proud of having supplied the first Indian Governor of a province. In the discharge of our duties, as I have said, we must always bear in mind the dignity of the Council. That can best be maintained by conforming to the rules and regulations that have been laid down for our guidance. Some of these rules may be somewhat irritating, for instance, the rules imposing a time-limit on speeches, but I feel that there should be no difficulty in conforming to this rule. We must always remember that this Council is a place for conducting business and that every day we must go through a certain amount of work, and if the time of the Council is unnecessarily occupied by speeches we lessen the opportunities that the members have for performing the responsible duties that are entrusted to them. If members remember this, they will be able so to condense their speeches as not to feel any difficulty in conforming to the time-limit. I would also remind you that I am your friend. The first President of the Council is appointed for four years, after the four years many will grow up who will be better fitted to lead the Council than any outsider that Government may appoint. Well, there is one thing that I may tell you, and it is this, that I am not a Government official. It is my duty to hold the balance even between the Government members and the non-official members. It is not my duty to favour any side, and I hope in the discharge of my duties I shall never forget this principle. No doubt I shall at times make mistakes, and I hope to these mistakes you will always be kind and indulgent.

There is another matter to which I think I may usefully refer. There have been several complaints about the arrangement of seats. This hall, as you know, was not built for a meeting of the Legislative Council, and will not lend itself to an arrangement which will be most conducive to the convenience of the members, but at the same time the arrangement may be susceptible of improvement, and I propose at the end of this session of the Council to appoint a small committee to suggest measures as regards the arrangement of seats that will be more convenient to the members than the seats now arranged are, and I hope before another session begins I shall be able to do all that is possible for the convenience of the members of this Council.

There has been a certain amount of dissatisfaction expressed because the Legislative Department has refused to accept notices of motions or resolutions, or to admit questions, in the vernacular language. I had in these matters to consult the rules. Section 11 of the rules says that the business of the Council shall be conducted in English, but any member who is not fluent in English may address the Council in any recognised vernacular of the province, provided that the President may call on any member to speak in any language in which he is

known to be proficient. So you will see that the rule does not authorise me to have the business of the Council transacted in the vernacular, except in the matter of speeches during debate. So that I think the Legislative Department was quite in order in ruling that all notices of questions, resolutions and motions must be in the English language, which is expressly laid down to be the language of the Council.

As a new Council established under new conditions, our difficulties in the beginning may be considerable, but I hope in the future a tradition will grow up around this body and that then our task will become less difficult. In the discharge of my duties I expect all your assistance and support, and I for my part can assure you that in the discharge of these duties I shall never try to be harsh, and shall always consult your feelings compatible with my duty to keep order in this Council.

Starred Questions
(to which oral answers were given).

Proportion of work transferred and reserved.

***I. Maulvi ABDUL KARIM:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state what proportion, approximately, of administrative work has been transferred to the Ministers and what proportion has been retained as Reserved subjects?

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): The list of provincial subjects and the list of transferred subjects are given in schedules I and II of the Devolution Rules, which were published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 22nd December, 1920. The amount of administrative work in connection with any particular subject necessarily varies at different times and under varying circumstances and it is not, therefore, possible to give an estimate of the proportion of administrative work involved in transferred and reserved departments respectively.

Annual outbreak of cholera in Patuakhali.

***II. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that cholera breaks out every year in the municipal town of Patuakhali?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister considering the desirability of deputing a sanitary officer to find out the cause of the epidemic with a view to devise means to stamp it out?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): The records for five years do not show that there has been an annual epidemic

of cholera in Patuakhali, the annual number of deaths from that cause ranging from 17 to 34 only. In these circumstances Government do not consider it necessary to depute an officer to hold a special inquiry. It is proposed to assist the municipality in carrying out a water-supply scheme next year.

Minister for Education and his relation to Education Department.

***III. Maulvi ABDUL KARIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether he will have to deal with Primary Education only?

(*b*) If the Minister for Education is to be in charge of Primary Education only, in what relation will the Education Department as a whole stand to the Minister for Education?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Creation of a new Subordinate Engineering Service and pay and prospects of Lower Subordinates.

***IV. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state what steps are being taken with regard to the creation of a new Subordinate Engineering Service as announced in Government of India Public Works Department resolution No. 192 E.A. of 1st April, 1920?

(*b*) What will be its cadre and scale of pay?

(*c*) When is it proposed to give effect to the said resolution as intimated in reply to my starred question No. 1 on the 1st July, 1920?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether it is known to Government that the Lower Subordinates of the Public Works Department are very poorly paid and have been put to great hardship owing to the high prices of the ordinary necessaries of life?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether any memorial has been received from the Lower Subordinates of the Public Works Department for a revision of their pay?

(*f*) If so, what steps have been taken with regard to the said memorial?

(*g*) Is a revision of their pay and prospects under the immediate consideration of Government?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) The Government of Bengal have recently passed orders creating a Subordinate Engineering Service. A resolution on the subject will be issued shortly.

(*b*) The cadre is still under consideration and has not been finally determined. The scale of pay will be announced in the resolution.

(*c*) The date will be announced in the resolution.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) and (*g*) Orders have recently been passed prescribing a revised time-scale of pay for those lower subordinates who are not promoted to the Subordinate Engineering Service. A resolution on the subject will be issued shortly.

Special treatment of Bengal as regards finance.

*V. **Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state what special treatment, if any, has been made, or is proposed to be made, to Bengal by the Government of India in the matter of finance in accordance with the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament on the Government of India Act?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): No definite action has yet been taken nor have the Government of Bengal any information as to what action, if any, the Government of India propose taking in regard to the recommendations referred to.

Customs Preventive Service.

*VI. **Mr. H. BARTON:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether the recommendation of the Public Services Commission, providing for 50 per cent. of the vacancies in the Superior Branch of the Customs Preventive Service being filled by statutory natives of India, is being given effect to, and, if so, how many such vacancies have been so filled since January, 1911?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware of the fact that Preventive Officers are required to forfeit, to charitable institutions, 60 per cent. of their earnings for work performed on Sundays and whether Government are considering the desirability of directing that all such earnings be retained by Preventive Officers employed on such duties?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware of the unhealthy conditions under which Customs Preventive Officers are compelled to work at the Salt Golas?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of appointing a committee consisting of medical officers and members of the Customs Preventive Officers' Service to investigate and report on the working conditions at the Salt Golas and to submit such recommendations as they consider necessary for their improvement, if any?

(c) Has the Hon'ble the Member any knowledge of the new conditions of recruitment for the Customs Preventive Service by which appointments are made carrying no pay or fees of any kind nor any power under the Sea Customs Act; persons so appointed being only eligible for rewards as informers and having no claim to the appointment of Preventive Officer, though performing the duties of a Preventive Officer?

(f) Is it the intention of Government to set aside the orders contained in the recent reorganization of the Service, abolishing the temporary establishment of Preventive Officers?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: (a) The Public Services Commission made no recommendations regarding the Customs Preventive Service, their inquiries were confined to the Imperial Customs Service which is under the administration of the Government of India.

(b) The position is not correctly stated in the question. Of the fees levied by Government for ships working on Sundays, 40 per cent is allocated to Preventive Officers for the additional work imposed upon them, 10 per cent is given to a Service Fund for helping junior Preventive Officers and their families in case of sickness and the remaining 50 per cent is distributed among various charitable institutions for the benefit of seamen. Government do not propose to alter these arrangements which have been in force for many years.

(c) Government are aware that work at the Salt Golas is unpleasant at certain seasons of the year, but there is no evidence that the conditions at the golas are the cause of ill-health among the members of the service.

(d) As at present advised, Government do not consider that any advantage would be gained by the appointment of the committee suggested.

(e) No conditions of recruitment of this nature have been imposed. The Collector of Customs, however, reports that candidates for appointment are occasionally attached to the Department as unpaid apprentices, pending the occurrence of vacancies, and that they may in this capacity become eligible for rewards.

(f) The answer is in the negative.

Anglo-Indians and the Bengal Provincial Service.

***VII. Mr. H. BARTON:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to say whether it is a fact that Anglo-Indians are debarred from appointments in the Bengal Provincial Service, and, if so, on what grounds?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: It is not a fact that Anglo-Indians are debarred from appointments in the Bengal Civil Service, to which the Member presumably refers.

The Agricultural Department.

* VIII. **Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state from what year the Agricultural Department has been in existence in Bengal?

(*b*) What is the present annual expenditure of the Department?

(*c*) What practical work of note has the Department done up to date for the improvement of agriculture, especially of paddy crops in Bengal?

(*d*) Has any research been made with a view to devise means to combat the destructive agencies, *viz.*, worms and insects, etc., of the staple food crops of Bengal?

(*e*) If so, with what result?

(*f*) If not, is the Hon'ble the Minister considering the desirability of taking steps to see that a research is carried out in this connection?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) 1881

(*b*) Rupees 9¼ lakhs approximately

(*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) Annual reports of the Department, Government resolutions thereon, and the Departmental leaflets published from time to time furnish the information asked for. Copies of the reports for the last two years, together with the Government resolutions thereon, are placed on the library table.

(*f*) The question does not arise.

Unstarred Questions
(answers to which were laid on the table).

Delay in the construction of the Kidderpore Bridge.

1. **Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation been drawn to the delay in the construction of the Kidderpore Bridge over Tolly's Nala in Calcutta?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to ascertain and state when the construction of the said bridge is likely to be completed?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The date of completion, as previously anticipated, was June, 1921; owing, however, to an unfortunate strike of labourers in the workshops of Messrs. Burn & Co., who have been entrusted with the work, and also unforeseen delay in obtaining material from England, owing to

* Not printed in these Proceedings.

labour troubles there, the completion of the work will be delayed. Under these circumstances no exact date can at present be given for the completion of the work.

Canalisation of Tolly's Nala.

2. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation aware that the southern portion of Tolly's Nala is at present in a deplorable condition and that it has practically silted up?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to ascertain and state what steps are being taken for the canalisation or other improvement of the said nala?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) The Hon'ble Member is aware that the southern portion of Tolly's Nala is silted up to the detriment of navigation.

(*b*) The works undertaken for the improvement of the nala are as follows. The construction of a sluice at Samukpota for the purpose of excluding the tides of the Bidyadhari from the nala and at the same time of providing an exit for the tidal waters of the Hooghly. The sluice in question is approaching completion and the Nala will be closed at Samukpota at an early date. It is expected that these works will be in operation during the coming monsoon, when observations will be taken of the results achieved.

Rise in the prices of coke and coal.

3. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce been drawn to the high prices of soft coke, steam coal and coal dust? Are the Government aware that these high prices have seriously affected (1) the poor people of Calcutta, in the matter of the cost of living, (2) the rice industry of the suburbs of Calcutta, and (3) the brick industry of the adjoining districts of Calcutta, respectively?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to ascertain and state what steps are being taken with a view to reduce the prices of soft coke, steam coal and coal dust in the province?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The high prices are due to an actual shortage of coal, owing partly to poor raisings in the coal-fields and partly to railway transport difficulties in respect of Bengal coal. A copy of a press *communiqué*, dated the 8th January, 1921, showing the action taken by the Government of India to remedy matters, is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No 3.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Department of Commerce.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Delhi, the 8th January, 1921

In the Press *Communiqué* issued from this Department on the 9th July 1920, he Government of India announced their decision to restrict exports of coal from ndia, except under license, from the 24th July 1920, and to refuse preference for unker coal for Indian ports on the railways from the 1st September, 1920 The bject of this latter measure was to economise wagons by diverting bunker coal from he all-rail route to the route which it followed before the war, viz by rail to the Kidderpore Docks and thence by coasting steamers The prohibition of exports, xcept under license, was made partly to prevent Indian coal from being drained way in excessive quantities from India and partly to ensure that Indian ports hould obtain supplies of bunker coal by sea the capacity of the Kidderpore Docks eing very limited A rationing scheme was drawn up and, on the principle that upplies of Indian coal should be allowed only to important bunkering ports, n the vicinity of India, the following exports were allowed —

	Tons per mensem
Railway coal	
Ceylon Government Railway	10,000
Bunker coal —	
Colombo	50,000
Aden	10,000
Sabang	5,000
Singapore	15,000

The experience of the past five months has shown that, although these measures ave improved the general wagon supply of the country, and have also succeeded o some extent in driving bunker coal for Indian ports from the all-rail route ack to the part-rail and part-sea route, the general coal situation in India has eteriorated Stocks of railway coal in India are dangerously low at present, and omplaints have been received from many parts of the country of the difficulties xperienced by indigenous industries in obtaining coal There is at present an actual hortage of coal, owing partly to poor raisings in the coal-fields and partly to railay transport difficulties in respect of Bengal coal The available supplies of Bengal coal now fall short of Indian requirements, and there is no possibility of effecting immediate improvement in railway facilities

The Government of India have given their careful consideration to the question nd in consultation with the commercial public, they have decided further to urtail the demands for Bengal coal by stopping exports to Sabang and Singapore mmediately and to Aden after the end of this month In order to give Colombo, which is more dependent than the other ports on India for bunker coal, time to make other arrangements for the purchase of bunker coal, they have decided to llow 50,000 tons to be exported to this port in January, 40,000 tons in February nd 25,000 tons in March. After the end of March, Colombo will have to make her own arrangements for supplies of bunker coal, but the Government of India are arranging to continue reduced supplies for the Ceylon Government railways

The Government of India have also decided to restrict bunkers at Indian port At present steamers leaving Indian ports are permitted bunkers right up to the port of final destination and, owing to the comparative cheapness of Indian coal,

all steamers make full use of this privilege, and the consumption of bunker coal is consequently heavy. The Government of India propose in future to license bunkers for steamers proceeding westwards only as far as Port Said and three days further and to restrict bunkers for steamers proceeding eastwards on similar lines. These orders will come into effect at once.

C. A. INNES,

Secretary to the Government of India.

Scarcity of cow's milk.

4. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government been drawn to the high price and scarcity of cow's milk in Bengal?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the above causes are chiefly responsible for the heavy rate of infant mortality in the province?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to ascertain and state what steps are being taken for—

(*i*) the provision of pasture grounds,

(*ii*) the provision of stud bulls for breeding purposes,

(*iii*) the establishment and maintenance of charitable veterinary dispensaries,

(*iv*) the prohibition of the slaughtering of cows, and

(*v*) especially the prevention of the practice of *phuka* on milch cows?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) Government are aware that scarcity of good cow's milk is one of the causes of high infantile mortality.

(*c*) (*i*) The Member is referred to the relevant portions of Sir John Cumming's speech in connection with a resolution moved by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, M.L.C., at the meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council held on the 21st January, 1919, regarding the appointment of a committee to inquire into the deterioration of cattle in Bengal.

(*ii*) A full account is given in Part III of the Annual Report of the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, for the year 1919-20, a copy * of which is placed on the library table.

(*iii*) It is the policy of Government to have a veterinary dispensary established in every district and subdivisional headquarters, mostly through the agency and at the cost of local bodies. Most of the district headquarters and some of the subdivisional headquarters are now provided with veterinary dispensaries. Information concerning the working of these dispensaries will be found in the annual report of the department and in table V annexed thereto. These dispensaries are not

* Not printed in these Proceedings.

strictly speaking charitable institutions, as fees are levied according to a prescribed scale, except where *bonâ fide* cultivators and others, whose income is below Rs. 50 a month, are concerned.

(*iv*) In Calcutta the by-laws under section 559 (*3*) of the Calcutta Municipal Act regulating the use of slaughter-houses have been amended, so as to give effect to the following resolutions passed by the Corporation on the 7th April, 1920:—

(*i*) "That the slaughter of calves other than those vaccinated at the Government and Municipal Vaccine Depôts be prohibited."

(*ii*) "That as the calves from the depots are from 6 to 12 months old, *i.e.*, old enough to be fed, they should be kept in the stockyard for 24 hours before slaughter."

In mufassal municipalities the slaughter of cows may be regulated either under section 261, read with section 273 (2) and (7) of the Bengal Municipal Act, or under by-laws framed under section 2 of the Bengal Municipal (Slaughter-houses and Meat Markets) Act, 1865, but the initiative rests with the local authorities concerned.

(*v*) The operation called *phuka* is an offence punishable under section 4 of Act XI of 1890 and section 5A of Bengal Act I of 1869. Under section 6 of the Bengal Cruelty to Animals Act, 1920 (I of 1920), higher penalties are provided for practising *phuka*, and the owner of the cow has also been made liable to punishment.

Agricultural, industrial and commercial education.

5. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to make a full statement as to what steps have been taken or are being taken for the encouragement of agricultural, industrial and commercial education in Bengal?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: As regards agricultural education, an agricultural vernacular school was opened in Dacca in January, 1920. A copy * of the prospectus is placed on the library table. An agricultural vernacular school has also been constructed at Chinsura and is likely to be opened during the current month. An agricultural institute for the training of agricultural specialists has received administrative sanction; the site has already been acquired and its construction will shortly commence.

With regard to industrial education, the most important question that Government are now dealing with is the improvement of the training of engineering apprentices in railway and other workshops. A committee was appointed by Government to consider the matter in relation to railway workshops, and another committee was subsequently

* Not printed in these Proceedings.

appointed to deal with the special question of a technical school for Calcutta, to provide adequate instruction for the large number of apprentices engaged in the many engineering works in its neighbourhood. Government are now taking action on the reports submitted by these committees. Land is being acquired for the Calcutta Technical School, and administrative approval has been given to the construction, at a cost of about 2½ lakhs, of the ground floor of a building which is designed eventually to accommodate about 1,000 apprentices. For improvements in regard to the training of apprentices at the Kanchrapara Workshops on the Eastern Bengal Railway, Government have already sanctioned over a lakh of rupees for buildings, including a hostel for Indian apprentices and a building for a technical school. The instruction of artisan boys in various handicrafts and in elementary class subjects has been encouraged by giving substantial grants to several efficient industrial schools. There are also successful industrial classes at the Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur, at the Dacca School of Engineering, and elsewhere.

With regard to mining education, Government have sanctioned an important scheme for the improvement and development of the classes in mining, which are held in the coal-fields. A highly qualified whole-time lecturer will be appointed, and suitable buildings will be erected.

To provide improved instruction in weaving, the higher course at the Serampore Weaving Institute has been extended to three years and the curriculum has been enlarged. A scheme for the removal and extension of the Institute is under preparation and is now almost completed. In order to give instruction to weavers in the outlying parts of the Presidency, six peripatetic instructors have been appointed to supplement the work of the local weaving schools. A proposal for a weaving school at Dacca, with a special curriculum to suit the requirements of the district, is now under consideration.

In order to strengthen the staff of the Government Commercial Institute, the sanction of the Secretary of State has been obtained to the creation of a new post to provide for the appointment of a Principal, with special qualifications, and it is hoped that a suitable officer will soon be recruited to fill this post. The staff of the Institute has also been increased by the appointment of additional lecturers.

Preventive measures in connection with the Damodar floods.

6. Babu FANINDRALAL DE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state what progress has been made in the preventive and remedial works which are being carried out in connection with the Damodar floods?

(*b*) What sums have been allotted for these works?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether there are any other schemes before the Government in regard to the Damodar

ood besides those which have already been undertaken, and what benefits are expected from them?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) The preventive and remedial works carried out in connection with the Damodar floods, since the extraordinary floods of 1913, are :—

(*i*) the remodelling of the left embankment of the Damodar to a height of 3 feet above high flood level and construction of retired second defence lines of embankment in weak places.

(*ii*) excavation of the Ghesapati Khal and the retirement of the Baxi Khal embankment and improving Baxi Khal,

(*iii*) extension of the Ghesapati Khal outfall channel;

(*iv*) excavation of the Hoorhoora Khal,

(*v*) Uchinda cut,

(*vi*) construction of refuge mounds.

In schemes (*iii*) and (*iv*) further works will be done when dredgers are available.

(*b*) The following statement shows the allotment of funds for the current year, and the expenditure on these works for the last three years, together with the expenditure during the current year to end of December, 1920. The work of remodelling the left embankment was carried out from funds for repairs to these embankments and no separate account for this work is available and the expenditure on this account is not therefore shown in this statement :—

Works	Amount of Estimate	Allotment for 1920-21	Expenditure			
			1920-21 to end of December 1920	1919-20	1918-19	1917-18
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
Excavation of the Ghesapati Khal, retirement of the Baxi embankment and excavation of the Baxi Khal	3,96,362	2,200	6,156	3,883	47,410	1,77,431
New extension of Ghesapati outfall channel	33,196	33,000	13,124	4,108	...	...
Excavation of the Hoorhoora Khal	10,96,910	70,000	53,969	1,15,190	1,24,270	...
Uchinda cut ...	29,996	4,000	2,556	19,597	5,199	...
Refuge mounds	29,628	7,000	6,125	1,523	...	...

(*c*) Besides the above schemes, which have already been undertaken, the following schemes in connection with Damodar flood mitigation are under investigation or consideration:—

(*i*) a scheme for construction of flood-controlling reservoirs in the upper reaches of the river Damodar proper and its tributary, the river Barakar;

(*ii*) a scheme for making a cut from Muchihana on the Damodar river to the entrance of the Begua Channel;

(*iii*) a scheme for making a drainage cut from the low-lying lands north-west of Lakra to the Begua Channel in place of the silted-up Bachurda Khal;

(*iv*) a scheme for excavating a drainage cut from Narendrapur to Kamarkhola onwards to Bani Khal to provide a quicker outlet of the spill water from the area east of Hoothoora Khal;

(*v*) a scheme for extending the Ghesapati Cut northwards by about two miles to tap a larger spill area;

(*vi*) proposals for drainage cuts from Behala chak and Tala basins lying north of the Arambagh-Champadanga road into the Mondessari Nadi;

(*vii*) a scheme for improving the Arora Khal, south-west of Khanakul.

Scheme (*i*) is intended to reduce the intensity of the floods in the Damodar river. All the other schemes are intended to accelerate the discharge of the spill water of the Damodar floods from the local areas concerned.

Anti-malarial irrigation and drainage scheme.

7. Babu FANINDRALAL DE: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state—

(*a*) what progress has been made in the work of the anti-malarial irrigation and drainage scheme in the Burdwan Division;

(*b*) what amount was originally sanctioned for the Banka anti-malarial flushing scheme in the Burdwan district;

(*c*) how much has been spent up to this time in that scheme;

(*d*) what benefit has been obtained from it; and

(*e*) what other schemes in addition to those being worked are in their hands in this connection?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) The progress of anti-malarial works in the Burdwan Division, which are either completed or under construction, is as below:—

(*1*) The Banka anti-malarial project.—Completed.

(*2*) Saraswati project.—Completed.

(3) Amta project.—Excavation for sluice foundations is about to be started. Arrangements have been made for brick manufacture.

(4) Pichaboni project.—Nearly completed.

(5) Amirabad project.—Earthwork partly done, borings are being made to decide the location of the sluice.

(*ii*) The sanctioned estimate for the Banga anti-malarial scheme amounted to Rs. 73,217 for works only, *i.e.*, excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant charges.

(*iii*) The work was completed during 1918-19, the expenditure incurred was Rs. 72,532 on works only.

(*iv*) The report for 1918-19 indicates that the above work enabled the crops in the low lands to be entirely saved; water levels had to be kept low for the purpose and the submergence of the whole basin was not possible.

(*v*) In addition to the schemes mentioned in (*i*) above, the following schemes are under survey, investigation or consideration:—

(1) Sabong-Parsua drainage scheme.

(2) Dhunia scheme.

(3) Soadighi-Gangakhali scheme.

(4) Tumlook-Mahisadal drainage scheme.

(5) Rankini Doho drainage scheme.

(6) Ghea project.

(7) Mirza scheme.

(8) Russulpur project.

Malarial fever.

8. Babu FANINDRALAL DE: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Sanitation be pleased to say whether the Government are considering the desirability of asking the District Boards, Local Boards and Municipalities to report on the prevalence and incidence of malarial fever within their respective areas, and on the means that may be adopted to remove the causes, and the probable cost, both capital and recurring, of the measures necessary to be taken in that behalf?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC HEALTH (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): The model rules prescribing the duties of District Health Officers lay down that in order to facilitate the adoption of measures for reducing the prevalence of malarial fever, the District Health Officer shall have a careful survey made of the distribution of malaria in the district and that when, as a result of this survey, he has obtained an accurate knowledge of the distribution and relative intensity of the malaria existing in different parts of the district, he shall prepare a detailed scheme of anti-malarial sanitation designed to meet the existing conditions, and shall submit

it to the Chairman of the District Board for the approval and sanction of the Board. District Health Officers have only recently been appointed, and it is thought advisable to wait till action has been taken in accordance with the model rules. The Sanitary Commissioner proposes to issue departmental instructions for their guidance regarding the carrying out of detailed malaria surveys. He also proposes to address Government with the suggestion that those municipalities which have health officers and to which Parts VI to X of the Bengal Municipal Act have been extended, should be asked to carry out malaria surveys with a view to drawing up schemes for anti-malarial work.

Local taxation for primary education and sanitation.

9. Babu FANINDRALAL DE: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Departments of Sanitation and Education be pleased to say whether the Government are considering the desirability of obtaining from all the District Boards and Local Boards their views as to the resolutions passed at the last District Board Conference held at Government House, Calcutta, and what proposals, if any, for local taxation, they are prepared to approve and adopt to obtain funds for primary education and sanitation?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: The subject discussed at the District Board Conference were considered by the District Boards in meeting before their delegates attended the Conference. Copies of their proceedings have been received by Government and it is not at present considered necessary to refer the resolutions passed by the Conference to them, and also to Local Boards, for their opinion.

The Conference concluded on 14th January, 1921, and it is not proposed to take any action on its resolutions till they have been carefully considered and examined by Government, together with the resolutions already passed by the District Boards.

Bhairab river reclamation scheme and the Harihara scheme.

10. Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Sanitation aware that the scheme for the reclamation of the Bhairab under the Sanitary Drainage Act has been pending for some time?

(*b*) Is there any likelihood of the scheme being taken up for execution in the course of this year?

(*c*) If not, when is it going to be executed?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the death-rate in the district of Jessore is higher than the birth-rate?

(*e*) If so, what remedial steps are the Government taking in the matter?

(*f*) Is it a fact that the Harihara scheme in the district of Jessore is ready for execution?

(*g*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reason for the delay in its execution?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) and (*c*) Preliminary work is in progress. Surveys and levels of three different alignments have been made, and borings are being taken, this being necessary before the final location of the subsoil masonry work is decided upon. When the borings are completed, complete estimates will be worked out. It is anticipated that the work will be started during the next cold weather.

(*d*) The death-rate exceeded the birth-rate in the years 1915, 1916, 1918 and 1919. The birth-rate was in excess in 1917. The returns for 1920 are not yet available.

(*e*) The Member is referred to the speech made at Jessore by His Excellency the Governor in reply to a joint address presented by the Municipal Commissioners and the District Board on the 29th November, 1920, in which His Excellency pointed out that Government have already given the District Board considerable financial assistance to enable it to undertake large anti-malarial schemes, some of which are in course of execution while others are in course of preparation.

(*f*) No. The plans and estimates of the Harihara main and six branches have been completed. The survey of the Mukteswari portion has also been completed. Numerous borings have yet to be taken to decide the location of the subsoil masonry works, after which the complete estimates will be prepared.

(*g*) As indicated in the reply to (*f*), preliminary work in preparation of the scheme is in progress. The work can only be taken up after the complete estimates are ready and duly considered.

Temporary ministerial officers and their non-participation in the benefit of temporary allowances.

11. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in granting payments of temporary allowances to the ministerial officers under Government resolution No. 13631 F., dated the 1st September, 1920, men holding purely temporary appointments, sanctioned since 1st April, 1915, have been excluded?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of such appointments; and

(*ii*) the present pay of each and the pays prior to 1st April, 1915?

(c) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that these officers are in great difficulty owing to the prevailing high prices?

(d) Are the Government considering the desirability of granting these officers the concessions referred to in paragraph 2 of the above-mentioned resolution?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: (a) Yes, except in the cases provided for in clause (b) of the Finance Department letter No. 1115 T—F., dated the 23rd October, 1920, a copy* of which is placed on the library table for the Member's information.

(b) (c) and (d) It is understood that the Member requires a statement showing the purely temporary appointments sanctioned since the 1st of April, 1915. Lists of such temporary appointments are not maintained and it would not be possible to prepare them without a disproportionate amount of trouble.

(c) and (d) The economic stress owing to the prevailing high prices is felt by all officers, but Government do not recognise that the difficulty of purely temporary officers requires special alleviation. The pay of purely temporary appointments is fixed with reference to the market conditions prevailing at the time of creating the appointments and the rates are frequently higher than the rates of pay fixed for corresponding permanent appointments. Consequently Government are not considering the desirability of extending the sanctioned temporary allowances to the holders of temporary appointments, except in certain special cases provided for in clause (b) of the Government letter referred to in the answer to part (a) of the question.

Silting up of Bhagirathi river and the insanitary condition of Murshidabad.

12. Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: (a) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation been drawn to the silting up of the Bhagirathi and to the apprehension that there may be scarcity of water in all the villages on the bank of the river in the near future?

(b) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the stagnant water of the river is one of the chief causes of the diseases that visit Murshidabad every year and carry away thousands of its inhabitants?

(c) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what steps have been or are being taken or are contemplated to insure a continuous flow of the river throughout the year?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (a) The Government are watching very carefully the changes in the Bhagirathi entrance channel and do not apprehend at the present stage that there will be any scarcity of water in the river, as a sufficient supply from percolation is available during the dry season.

* Not printed in these Proceedings.

(*b*) The minimum discharge at Berhampore during 1918-19 was 119 cubic feet per second. The question of stagnation of the water in the river bed therefore does not arise.

(*c*) Bandalling and scraping are done every year during falling river levels after the monsoons to improve the Farakka channel and the Bhagirathi entrance. During the three years 1914-15, 1915-16 and 1916-17 dredging operations were carried out at the entrance. The question of dredging the entrance will be taken up again when dredgers are found available for this work.

Admission into the Calcutta Medical College.

13. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MAITRA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Medical Department be pleased to lay on the table a tabular statement showing the number of students who applied for admission into the Calcutta Medical College in 1918, 1919 and 1920?

(*b*) What were their academical qualifications and their number under each of the following heads —

(*1*) M.Sc., (*2*) M.A., (*3*) B.Sc. (Honours), (*4*) B.Sc. (Pass), (*5*) B.A., (*6*) I.Sc. (First Division), (*7*) I.Sc. (Second Division), (*8*) I.Sc. (Third Division), (*9*) I.A., and (*10*) Matriculates.

(*c*) What was the number of students actually admitted into the Calcutta Medical College in the years 1918, 1919 and 1920 and their number and qualifications under heads as detailed in clause (*b*) of the question?

MINISTER in charge of MEDICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): (*a*) and (*b*) A statement (I) is laid on the table.

(*c*) A statement (II) is laid on the table.

STATEMENT I.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred Question Nos. 13 (a) and 13 (b), showing the number of candidates for admission into the Calcutta Medical College during the year 1918, 1919 and 1920.

Year	M.Sc.	B.Sc. Honours	B.Sc. Pass	I.Sc. 1st Div.	I.Sc. 2nd Div.	I.Sc. 3rd Div.	M.A.	B.A.	I.A.	Matriculates	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Total
1918	3	5	83	220	131	21	1	19	110	259									1		887
1919	1*	20	6	279	183	20		26	53	185							1		6	713	917
1920	2	17	119	350	293	31		3	18	114	8	1	1	3				1†	240	1,024	

* All the M.Sc's were selected but, they did not join.

† The applications are not classified, as they are not eligible for admission according to rules.

STATEMENT II.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 13 (c), showing the number of students admitted into the Calcutta Medical College in the years 1918, 1919 and 1920.

YEAR																									REMARKS
1918			2	10	66	14			1	8	9										1	141	Selected by the Principal
					1	3					3											7	Selected by the Assam Government
					1	8	9															18	Selected by the Bihar Orissa Government
										1												1	Selected by the Burma Government
			2	12	77	23			1	9	12										1	167	
1919			14	38	76	1	1												2		6	153	Selected by the Principal
					5	1																6	Selected by the Assam Government
				3	6	1																13	Selected by the Bihar Orissa Government
					2																	2	Selected by the Burma Government
			14	41	88	2	1												2		6	174	
1920			9	38	70	32	3						1*	9		2*					1	156	Selected by the Principal.
				8	4	2																6	Selected by the Assam Government.
				2	3	4	9															18	Selected by the Bihar Government
				1	1																	2	Selected by the Burma Government
			9	41	78	38	12						1			2					1	182	

*These are female students.

Labour conditions and machinery to conciliate labour disputes.

14. Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state what arrangements have been made, or are being made, for the collection and publication of intelligence and statistics relating to labour conditions, such as wages in different trades and industries, prices, the cost of living, trade unions and their membership, strikes, labour disputes, etc.?

(*b*) Have the Government under consideration the setting up of any machinery for the conciliation of labour disputes on the lines of the United Kingdom Act of 1896 or on any other lines?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: (*a*) A record of strikes occurring within the province has been maintained in the office of the Director of Industries since the 1st July, 1920, and the study of labour conditions, industrial wages and the growth of labour associations is being taken up in that office. These inquiries are being conducted with a view to the eventual publication of the results but are not yet sufficiently advanced for publication.

(*b*) The matter is under the consideration of the Government of India.

Increase of pay to village chaukidars.

15. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department aware that at a recent conference it was decided to increase the pay of village chaukidars from Rs. 5 to Rs. 8 per mensem?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the work of a chaukidar does not interfere with the performance of his ordinary affairs in addition?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the chaukidars do not go out on rounds in the villages in the night?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Member also aware that the chaukidars do not present themselves at the thana or the panchayat office regularly?

(*e*) Do the Government propose to hold a conference with expert members of union boards on the subject?

(*f*) Has the recommendation to increase the pay of the chaukidars been submitted to the Government for sanction?

(*g*) In case the sanction is granted, is it the intention of Government to contribute towards the increased expenditure?

(*h*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the present chaukidari tax falls hard on the people and that in many cases they have to sell their personal belongings to meet the expenditure?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): (*a*) Government have received a copy of the report of the proceedings of a conference of presidents of panchayats, union boards and chairmen of union committees of the Dacca district held at Dacca on the 19th July, 1920. The conference passed a resolution that the pay of chaukidars should be increased to about Rs. 8 to Rs. 10.

(*b*) Chaukidars are not whole-time public servants.

(*c*) and (*d*) Government are aware that chaukidars sometimes neglect their duties in these respects and are punished for such neglect.

(*e*) This step is not at present thought to be necessary.

(*f*) and (*g*) The recommendation to increase the pay of chaukidars has not been submitted to Government for sanction. In the report of the proceedings of the conference it is stated: "The question as to how the increased cost is to be met was left with every union board."

(*h*) The assessment is made by the panchayat or union board, and it is provided that any person who is too poor to pay half an anna a month shall be altogether exempted from payment of the tax. General allegations of hardship are made from time to time in the press and elsewhere.

Anglo-Indian nurses and appointments of Senior Nursing Sisters.

16. Mr. H. BARTON: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Medical Department be pleased to say whether it is a fact that the appointments of senior nursing sisters in the Presidency General Hospital and the Medical College Hospital are reserved for Nursing Sisters recruited from England to the entire exclusion of competent Anglo-Indian nurses trained in India, and if so, on what grounds?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: The supervision and training of the nursing staff at the Presidency General Hospital is undertaken by the sisters of the Community of St. John the Baptist of Clewer, England, who receive only a bare subsistence allowance from the Lady Canning Memorial Fund. At the Medical College Hospital the nursing staff has, since November, 1910, been trained and supervised by a lady superintendent, who is assisted by five senior nursing sisters, all trained in England. These arrangements are made by the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institution and not by Government but they appear suitable, because they make not only for economy but also for efficiency as a competent up-to-date training staff is not at present available locally.

New district of Jamalpur and improvement of its headquarters town.

17. Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased

to state what changes and improvements are contemplated in the town of Jamalpur owing to it being made the headquarters of the new district?

(b) From what date is the new district going to be created?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): (a) The scheme for the construction of a new district headquarters at Jamalpur does not include changes and improvements in the existing town of Jamalpur. These will doubtless follow in due course when the new district comes into being to the extent that the finances available will permit. The site selected for the new district headquarters adjoins the existing town on the north-west.

(b) The date from which the new district will be created cannot be stated at present, as work has only recently been begun. The preliminary work of raising the sites and burning bricks is in progress, and designs and estimates for buildings are being prepared.

Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state if any amount was sanctioned by the Government towards the creation of the new district of Jamalpur?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: Money has been provided for it, and the work is in progress.

Revision of salaries of ministerial and menial establishments.

18. Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: (a) With reference to the inquiry into the revision of salaries of ministerial and menial establishments, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to say what is meant by the words "revision in accordance with modern economic conditions" for the purpose of "readjustment of salaries?"

(b) Was it intended that the committee appointed should consider "what ought to be the proper salaries of posts after an exhaustive inquiry into the conditions of service of ministerial and other officers," which His Excellency the Governor promised to hold in his reply to the deputation of ministerial officers in October last?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: (a) and (b) The exact words used by His Excellency the Governor were: "You have my assurance that it is the intention of Government to hold an exhaustive inquiry into the conditions of service of the ministerial officers." His Excellency further stated that he was not in a position to state the exact nature of the inquiry which would be held, but he made it clear that the main object was to substitute a permanent revision of pay for the temporary allowances which were granted in 1920 to meet the hardships caused

by the increase in the cost of living produced by the war. The reference to the committee was purposely framed in general terms and Government do not propose to hamper them by the issue of further instructions.

Insanitary condition of Dolye Khal.

19. Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation been drawn to the condition, in the dry season, of that portion of the Dolye Khal, which passes through the town of Dacca?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that part of the Dolye Khal, during the dry season, becomes an elongated cesspool and a standing menace to public health?

(*c*) What steps are being taken for the canalization or improvement of the khal?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) The condition of the Dolye Khal, which passes through Dacca, is known to the Government.

(*b*) That part of the khal passing through the town and within the limits of the Dacca Municipality is in an insanitary condition during the dry season.

(*c*) A scheme for canalization has been drawn up by Rai Sharlendra Nath Banerjee Bahadur, Executive Engineer, who was deputed to investigate this project. This scheme is now under consideration of the Government, but owing to lack of funds, as also of officers in the Irrigation Department, it is not likely that the scheme will mature at an early date.

Hardship on members of joint families to vote at municipal elections.

20. Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that the Government Municipal Circular No. 2445 M., dated Calcutta, the 25th September, 1916, disentitling members of a joint family to vote at municipal elections, operates as a hardship in the Dacca Municipality?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability, in view of the coming municipal elections, of modifying this circular with a view to enable members of a joint family paying the minimum municipal rate for qualification of a voter, to vote at a municipal election?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) and (*b*) The Member is referred to the proceedings of the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 19th December, 1917, in which a resolution was moved that the circular in question should be either withdrawn or

odified It was then explained by Lord Sinha of Raipur that the ncular was simply a communication of an opinion expressed by the dvocate-General. Government are not in a position to modify his pinion, and, as pointed out by Lord Sinha — " It is open to anybody, who inks that it is wrong, to go to the nearest Munsif's Court and say that e opinion of the Advocate-General is not worth the paper it is written pon, and the Court will thereupon decide as to whether the Advocate-eneral was right or whether he was wrong "

Government realise the difficulty caused by joint families not voting nd it is therefore proposed to make provision for the exercise of the anchise by joint families in a Bill amending the Bengal Municipal Act, hich will be introduced later on

Dacca Sewerage Scheme.

21. Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Sanitation been awn to the slow progress of the Dacca Sewerage Scheme and the inconvenience it is causing to the people?

(*b*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister been drawn to e fact that the Municipal Commissioners of Dacca at a meeting held n 21st December, 1920, considered this question and placed on record eir dissatisfaction at the unsatisfactory manner in which the work as being done by the sewerage contractor, that they specially refer o the facts —

(*i*) that by not employing a sufficiently large number of men the operations are being delayed beyond reasonable time,

(*ii*) that this delay is causing great inconvenience to pedestrians and wheel traffic,

(*iii*) that by rendering the passage of scavenging carts impossible during the time of operations it is causing accumulation of filth and that this is a danger to public health?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister considering the desirability of bringing the aforesaid matters to the notice of the Sanitary Engineer with e request that the contractors be directed to expedite the work?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*), (*b*) and) The reply is in the negative. Inquiry will be made.

Cost of establishments of Divisional Commissioners and Board of Revenue.

22. Maulvi ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member charge of the Department of Revenue be pleased to lay on the able a statement showing the cost of the establishment of each Commissioner of a Division, including the Commissioner's own salary and llowance, if any?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be also pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the cost of the establishment of the Board of Revenue in Bengal, including the salary and allowance, if any, of the Member or Members?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the table showing (*i*) the cost of establishment of each Commissioner of a Division, including his salary and allowances, and (*ii*) that of the Board of Revenue, including the salary of its Member and of his Secretary.

Statements referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 22.

(*i*) Cost of establishment of the Commissioners of Divisions.

	Commissioner's pay and allowances	Pay of the personal assistant to Commissioner	Ministerial establishment	Menial establishment	Steamboat establishment	Total
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
Burdwan Division	39,000	6,000	24,900	1,524	...	69,9[illegible]
Presidency Division	45,000	6,000	[illegible]	2,[illegible]	3,562	87,[illegible]
Dacca Division	39,000	6,000	2[illegible],110	1,848	6,360	7[illegible],30
Rajshahi Division	39,000	6,000	24,0[illegible]	1,608	...	70,[illegible]
Chittagong Division	45,000	6,000	17,520	1,572	3,476	67,[illegible]
Total	1[illegible],000	40,200	1,11,3[illegible]2	8,724	13,398	3,71,6[illegible]

(*ii*) Cost of establishment of the Board of Revenue.

	Rs
Member's pay	45,000
Secretary's pay	21,600
Ministerial establishment	47,900
Menial establishment	4,942
Total ..	1,19,442

Copies of records from Comilla Settlement Office.

23. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue aware that it is difficult to procure copies of records from the Comilla Settlement Office?

(*b*) Is it a fact that when folios and court-fees for obtaining copies are filed, receipt slips with the date of filing are not granted to the applicants?

(c) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that delays of over two months occur in supplying these records?

(d) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that these delays cause inconvenience to the public?

(e) What steps are the Government taking to remedy the grievance complained of?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (a) It is not a fact that it is difficult to procure copies of records from the Comilla Settlement Office.

(b) No. So far as can be gathered from the papers in the Collector's office receipts are always granted and no complaint on this score has been received either by the Collector or by the Assistant Settlement Officer in charge.

(c), (d) and (e) Before the Puja holidays there were 19 officers dealing with cases under section 105 in different camps, there was a copyist in every such camp. When the 19 camps were broken up and the records were transferred to Sadar, there was some inevitable delay in dealing with applications for copies whilst the records were being sorted and arranged. There has been no case of delay since the records were set in order, the longest pending application on January 31st last was dated the 18th January.

Deaths and injuries in coal mines due to accidents.

24. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state the number of deaths, and employees injured by accidents, in Bengal coal mines in 1918-1919, 1919-1920?

(b) What steps have been taken by the Government to prevent such accidents in future?

(c) What compensation has been paid by mine-owners to families of miners killed by such accidents and to miners injured by such accidents?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: (a) The number of deaths and of employees injured by accidents in the Bengal coal mines during 1918 and 1919 are:—

	Number of deaths.	Employees injured.
In 1918	71	47
In 1919	73	60

The figures for 1920 are not yet available.

(b) The rules framed under section 20 of the Indian Mines Act, 1901, to provide for the safety of persons employed in coal mines are contained in the Government of India's notification No. 864-68-20, dated the 10th March, 1904, and the Bengal Government notification

No. 3970 Com., dated the 28th August, 1918, copies* of which are laid on the library table. No special action was taken after the mining accidents of 1918 and 1919 as these did not reveal any defect in the rules.

(c) The information is not immediately available, but will be laid on the table when received from the District Officers.

Women's Provincial Educational Service.

25. Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: (a) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware that the Women's Provincial Educational Service is separated from the Men's?

(b) If so, why?

(c) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to explain why the maximum salary for the Women's Provincial Educational Service is proposed to be fixed at Rs. 500 a month, whereas the maximum salary for the Men's Provincial Educational Service has been fixed at Rs. 800 a month?

(d) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether Indian public opinion was consulted before the fixing of the pay and prospects of the Women's Educational Service?

(e) Have any concessions been made to them on the ground that the duties of the women Inspectorate are arduous and attended with hardship and danger?

The DEPUTY SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (Mr. W. W. Hornell): (a) The Minister is aware that the Secretary of State has issued orders that there are to be separate services for women.

(b) The orders are in accordance with the recommendations of the Indian Public Services Commission.

(c) The scale suggested was considered to be adequate.

(d) The Indian Public Services Commission took evidence from the public.

(e) The whole question of the Women's Educational Services is under the consideration of the Education Department.

Water-hyacinth in Eastern Bengal.

26. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: (a) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Irrigation aware of the fact that water-hyacinth has been choking up the natural arteries of trade, impeding agricultural operations and menacing the health of the people in many parts of Eastern Bengal?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether Government are taking any action for eradicating the same and preventing its spread?

* Not printed in these Proceedings

(c) If the answer to clause (b) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether Government propose to impose a tax upon non-agricultural income for meeting the costs of the same?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (a) Yes.

(b) The navigation channels in charge of the Irrigation Department which are declared under the Bengal Canals Act, 1864 (Bengal Act V of 1864), and which form the main arteries of navigation are cleared of water-hyacinth annually, where necessary. The question of what further action should be taken to eradicate, or prevent the spread of the plant is now under the consideration of Government.

(c) No such proposal is at present before Government.

Tax on non-agricultural income in rural areas.

27. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a resolution has been passed in the last Conference of the representatives of District Boards in Bengal held in Government House, Calcutta, to the effect that the question of levying a tax on small non-agricultural income ranging from Rs. 240 to Rs. 2,000 per annum in the rural areas should be left to the discretion of District Boards?

(b) If so, are the Government taking any action to give effect to the resolution?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (a) Two resolutions were passed on the subject at the last Conference of the representatives of District Boards, viz :—

(1) That the non-agricultural classes should be taxed, and

(2) that the fixing of rates of taxes of non-agricultural classes be left to the discretion of each District Board.

(b) The Member is referred to the reply given to unstarred question No. 9 asked by Babu Fanindralal De.

High prices of Bengal rice and its export from Bengal.

28. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of giving effect to the recommendations of the non-official Prices Enquiry Committee for restricting the export of rice from Bengal at least as a temporary measure for keeping down prices?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: The recommendations of the Prices Enquiry Committee are under the consideration of this Government. The restriction of the export of rice from Bengal is a matter for the Government of

India to decide. The position will be explained in the debate on a resolution on this question which is to be moved at the present meeting of the Council.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state if it is a fact that the prevailing prices of *balam* and *dakshini* rice are universally higher than what they were at season time in the last 12 years?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: As regards this question I think it is a fact but there will be a debate on this question at a later stage during the present session of the Council, and I would ask the Member to wait to then.

Scavenging arrangements in Circular Road.

29. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government been drawn to the fact that the practice of carrying away the refuse of Calcutta in open scavenging carts and emptying the same into open waggons from several platforms in Circular Road, is a source of annoyance to the citizens and danger to public health in Calcutta?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, are contemplated to remove the evil?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) Steps are being taken by the Corporation for the introduction of a system of motor traction for the removal of refuse. Orders have been placed for 16 lorries, of which 8 have been received and are being used. The remainder are expected very soon. The system at present is in an experimental stage. The Corporation have also a scheme in hand for the construction of a combined refuse platform and stone metal depôt at Chungribhatta, which will do away with the existing refuse platforms.

Cost of administration in Bengal owing to the passing of the Government of India Act, 1919.

30. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether the cost of administration in Bengal has increased in consequence of the passing of the Government of India Act of 1919 and, if so, to what extent?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: The increased expenditure on account of the enlargement of the Executive Council, the appointment of Ministers and the increase of the Secretariat establishment under the Reforms Scheme is roughly estimated at Rs. 3,82,000, but the figures are

provisional only, as they are dependent on various factors which have not yet been finally decided. In the case of the Secretariat establishment, part of the increase of pay must be attributed to normal expansion of work and to increase of pay granted to meet the economic conditions arising out of the war. There will also be some increase of expenditure on the Legislative Department on account of the enlargement of the Legislative Council, but no precise figures can be given at present. The passing of the Government of India Act has led to a complete change in the allocation of revenue and expenditure between the Government of India and the local Government, which has further complicated the situation. The effect on the provincial income and expenditure will be apparent when the budget statement for 1921-22 is presented.

Chaukidari tax.

31. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to place on the table a detailed statement showing the total amounts of receipts, district by district, on account of chaukidari tax in the last two official years?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: Figures of actual receipts on account of chaukidari tax are not available without a reference to district officers, but figures of the total cost of chaukidars and daffadars are contained in statement II of the annual report on the police administration in the Bengal Presidency. These figures correspond closely to those of receipts. A statement showing the total cost, district by district, for the years 1918 and 1919, is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred Question No. 31, showing the total cost of chaukidars and daffadars, district by district, for the years 1918 and 1919.

	Name of District.	Cost for the year 1918.			Cost for the year 1919.		
		Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
1	Dacca	3,06,424	1	6	3,12,639	0	0
2	Mymensingh	5,01,732	0	0	5,01,216	0	0
3	Faridpur	3,04,361	0	0	3,05,141	0	0
4	Barisal	3,65,352	0	0	3,65,964	0	0
5	Chittagong	1,68,478	0	0	1,68,358	0	0
6	Comilla	2,07,261	0	0	2,07,468	9	6
7	Noakhali	1,24,350	14	6	1,32,931	2	7

	Name of District	Cost for the year 1918			Cost for the year 1919		
		Rs	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
8	Rajshahi	2,17,017	0	0	2,14,357	0	0
9	Dinajpur	2,63,287	0	0	2,99,451	0	0
10	Jalpaiguri	1,06,468	0	0	1,06,542	0	0
11	Rangpur	3,07,700	0	0	3,06,734	0	0
12	Bogra	1,10,730	0	0	83,483	4	0
13	Pabna	1,82,874	0	0	95,298	0	0
14	Malda	1,41,595	0	0	1,41,399	0	0
15.	Siliguri (Darjeeling)	12,264	0	0	12,965	7	8
16.	Burdwan	2,61,185	3	1	2,64,550	10	4
17	Birbhum	1,96,577	3	6	1,97,657	0	0
18	Bankura	1,63,232	13	1	1,63,199	4	8
19.	Midnapore	3,55,771	3	0	3,55,771	3	0
20	Hooghly	1,55,808	0	0	1,58,820	0	0
21.	Howrah	1,05,912	0	0	1,10,398	6	6
22	24 Parganas	2,12,148	1	3	2,94,365	3	0
23.	Nadia	2,45,779	10	10	2,33,495	11	6
24.	Murshidabad	1,38,756	8	0	1,40,702	5	6
25	Jessore	2,11,726	0	0	2,21,582	0	0
26.	Khulna	1,49,342	0	0	1,53,238	0	0
	Grand Total ...	55,16,132	10	9	55,47,937	4	3

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state what was the total expenditure on these heads and whether any and, if so, what balance was left?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: As explained in the answer to the question, we have given such figures as we have got as to total cost. To give further figures would require a reference to every district.

Recommendations of the Calcutta Communications Committee.

32. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: (*1*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works been drawn to the recommendations contained in the report of the Calcutta Communications Committee?

(*2*) If so, what action, if any, are the Government taking to carry out the same?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*1*) A copy of the Committee's report has been received by the Government of Bengal in the Public Works Department, and the recommendations of the Committee, in so far as the Department is concerned, are under examination.

(*2*) The Government of Bengal have come to no decision at present

Sugarcane and cotton cultivation.

33. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state what practical steps, if any, have been taken or are proposed to be taken for the spread of sugarcane and cotton cultivation in Bengal as recommended by the Board of the Agricultural Department, at its first meeting held in March, 1920?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: With regard to the spread of sugarcane cultivation, it has been deemed advisable to await the report of the Sugar Commission before a definite programme for extending sugarcane cultivation on a large scale was formulated. In the meantime the question was thoroughly discussed at a Conference of Senior Agricultural Officers held at Dacca on December 6th and 7th, 1920. It was then decided that immediate steps could be taken in the following direction: The cane known as yellow tanna has been proved, as a result of several years' experimental work, to be the best all-round cane for Bengal, having in view its yield of sugar per acre and its resistance to disease.

The demand for seed of this variety is far greater than the supply and a policy of cane seed farms at selected centres was decided upon. The attention of the Department is being concentrated on the supply of sufficient seed of this excellent variety, so that if it is eventually decided to adopt a system of central factories, seed of a suitable cane may be available for the extended cultivation that this system will entail.

With regard to cotton, experimental testing of varieties was continued on the Government farms. The results are most disappointing and seem to prove that cotton cannot hope to compete with other rains crops, such as jute and paddy, so far as monetary returns are concerned.

It is useless to distribute seeds until we have a suitable variety and can prove that it will pay the raiyat to grow the crop.

An exhaustive examination of all the available records of cotto experimental work in Bengal during the last 100 years has been mad and an abstract of the results will, it is hoped, be printed immediate for general information. The rainfall of Bengal is too heavy to gro cotton satisfactorily during the monsoon, but it is proposed to sta experiments with cotton as a cold weather crop in certain selected par of the province. Experiment alone will show whether cotton, as a co weather crop, will be paying, but experiment has already shown that does not pay to grow cotton as a rains crop.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minist in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased t state if it is a fact that the Board of Agricultural Department decide last year to recommend spread of cotton cultivation in Bengal after full considering the suitability of Bengal climate for the cultivation of cotton

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department o Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state if it is a fact that there a large demand for cotton seeds which the Agricultural Department ca not meet?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Kha Bahadur: I should ask for fresh notice.

Water-hyacinth in Bengal and the waterways of Assam.

34. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble th Minister in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to s whether it is a fact that water-hyacinth is carried to Bengal mainl along the waterways of Assam?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that no scheme for the comple extermination of the plant is likely to prove effective without the co operation of the Assam Government?

(*c*) In answer to question No. 3 at the Council meeting held on th 13th March, 1919, regarding the problem of checking the spread o water-hyacinth, it was stated that the Public Works Department of th Government was taking steps to root out the plant gradually from al canals or *khals* maintained by Government or declared under the Canal or Embankment Act, and that some of the district boards were also co operating in the matter of extermination. Will the Hon'ble the Minist be pleased to state whether as a matter of fact the steps taken have bee sufficient to check the spread of the plant or whether the plant has gon on spreading?

(*d*) If the evil has not been checked, will the Hon'ble the Minist be pleased to state what further steps, if any, have been taken or propose to be taken to combat the spread of this plant and bring about it extermination?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Kha Bahadur: (*a*) and (*b*) Government has no information to show that th

water-hyacinth comes to Bengal mainly along the waterways from Assam.

(c) The steps hitherto taken have not been sufficient to check the spread of the plant.

(d) The question of what further action should be taken to combat the spread of the plant is now under the consideration of Government.

Members of the governing bodies or managing committees of mufassal colleges.

35. **Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table the names of members of the governing bodies or managing committees of the first-grade mufassal colleges of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: A statement is laid on the table showing the constitution of the governing bodies of Government first-grade colleges in the mufassal. Government are not concerned with the managing committees of non-Government colleges, except in so far as the grant-in-aid rules require that the management of the affairs of every college which obtains aid from Government (whether by a grant of money for maintenance or for capital charges or for land) shall be in the hands of a governing body constituted in accordance with the University Regulations and approved by the Director of Public Instruction.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 35.

NOTIFICATION

No. 1080 Edu.—The 1st May, 1920.—The Governor in Council is pleased to appoint the following members to constitute the governing bodies of the undermentioned colleges for the academic year 1920-21.—

* * * * * * *

IV.—KRISHNAGAR COLLEGE.

1	The District and Sessions Judge, Nadia, President	*Ex-officio*
2	The Principal of the College, Vice-President and Secretary	*Ex-officio*
3	Maharaja Kshaunish Chandra Ray Bahadur of Krishnagar.	
4	Babu Rakhal Raj Biswas, M.A., Professor	

V.—HOOGHLY COLLEGE.

1	The Commissioner, Burdwan Division, President	*Ex-officio*
2	The Principal of the College, Vice-President and Secretary	*Ex-officio*
3	Babu Gopi Bhushan Sen, Professor	
4	The Hon'ble Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur, Pleader, Hooghly	

VI – DACCA COLLEGE.

1 The Commissioner, Dacca Division, President } Ex-officio
2 The Principal of the College, Vice-President and Secretary }
3 Rai Bhupati Nath Das Bahadur, M.A., B.Sc., Professor
4 Maulvi Mahammad Irfan, M.A., Professor
5 Mr. P. K. Bose, Bar-at-law

VII – RAJSHAHI COLLEGE.

1 The District Magistrate, Rajshahi, President } Ex-officio
2 The Principal of the College, Vice-President and Secretary }
3 Babu Bama Charan Bhattacharji, M.A., Professor
4 Mr. Sarat Kumar Roy of Dighapatia
5 Babu Akshay Kumar Maitra, B.L., C.I.E.
6 Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali Khan Chaudhuri, Zamindar of Natore

VIII – CHITTAGONG COLLEGE.

1 The Commissioner, Chittagong Division, President } Ex-officio
2 The Principal of the College, Vice-President and Secretary }
3 Babu Nripendra Chandra Banerjea, M.A., Professor
4. Rai Upendra Lal Roy Bahadur, B.L.
5 Babu Annada Charan Datta, M.A., F.L.
6 Khan Sahib Maulvi Abdul Sattar, B.L.

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Scheme for reorganizing the subordinate executive service.

36. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state when the final scheme for the reorganization of the subordinate executive service is likely to be published?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: The matter has been referred to the Government of India, and no announcement can be made till their orders are received.

Political prisoners and detenus of Bengal.

37. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether there are any Bengali political prisoners or *détenus* who have not yet been released?

(*b*) If there are any who have not yet been released, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state their number and the places of their confinement?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) and (*b*) All State prisoners under Bengal Regulation III of 1818 and all the *détenus*

under the Defence of India Rules or the Ingress into India Ordinance against whom orders were passed by the Government of Bengal have been released.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state if there are any persons convicted of political offences who have not yet been released.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I do not quite follow the exact meaning attached by the Member to the expression "political offence." There are a certain number of persons still in prison, who have been convicted of murders and dacoities, and such like offences, in connection with recent troubles in the past few years in Bengal. They are still in jail, that is, those whose sentences have not yet expired. A few such persons have, however, been released.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: If so how many are there and where have they been kept?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: It is not possible to give the figures off-hand.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is their intention to release them on the occasion of the inauguration of this Council by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: There is no present intention of taking action further than that which has already been taken.

Public Vehicles Department of the Calcutta Police.

38. **Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department aware that there is a strong feeling against the administration of the Public Vehicles Department of the Calcutta Police?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member considering the desirability of inquiring into the causes for such feeling with a view to remedy the same and to lay before the Council the result of such inquiry and the steps if any, taken?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the procedure by which Rules and Regulations relating to all classes of motor vehicles are framed and put into force under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act of 1914?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether, in the matter of the framing of these rules, public bodies, representatives of the public, representatives of taxi-owners and representatives of motor drivers are consulted?

(c) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether these rules and regulations are duly published in public newspapers and journals before being promulgated?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (a) and (b) Government are aware that there have been recent complaints regarding the motor traffic regulations and the exercise of control by the traffic police. There have also been complaints as to the dangerous state of the Calcutta streets by reason of ill-regulated motor driving, particularly in the case of taxi cabs. Government have appointed a committee, which is now sitting under the presidency of Mr. C. F. Beadel, to examine the existing regulations and control and to make recommendations as to the regulations, degree and manner of control that should be exercised in future in order to provide Calcutta with an efficient taxi cab service. Their report is awaited.

(c), (d) and (e) The rules under the Motor Vehicles Act were framed by a representative committee in 1914. The public were invited then, through the medium of newspapers, to offer suggestions and criticism and the draft rules were sent to the principal public bodies for opinion before they were published. Whenever changes are proposed, the draft amendments are published in the *Calcutta Gazette* for public criticism, one month's time usually being allowed, and any suggestions received are considered before the final notification of the rules. Proposed changes of an important nature are communicated to leading public bodies for opinion. They are not published specially in newspapers. Amendments made which are likely to be of public interest are brought to the notice of newspapers by the issue of press *communiques*.

Electors under the Bengal Electoral Rules.

39. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement showing the number of electors enrolled in each of the general constituencies under the new Bengal Electoral Rules as against the number of voters estimated by the Southborough Committee for such constituencies?

(b) If there is any substantial discrepancy, are the Government considering the desirability of ascertaining the cause?

(c) If action has been taken in this matter, will the Hon'ble the Member please state the result of the inquiry?

(d) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state how many applications for enrolment as voters were made to the Revising Authorities for each constituency, and the number of such applications rejected?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) The comparative statement desired by the Member is placed on the table.

(*b*) The figures of electors used by the Southborough Committee were merely estimates, and Government do not think it necessary to institute inquiries as to the discrepancies between these estimates and the figures of the finally published rolls.

(*c*) The Local Government brought to the notice of the Government of India the figures of electors disclosed by the rolls, and recommended, in the light of these, some modifications in the distribution of seats. These recommendations were generally accepted by the Joint Committee and the Secretary of State.

(*d*) Inquiries are being made whether the information required is available; if so, it will be placed on the table in due course.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred Question No. 39 (a).

Name and class of Constituency				Number of Voters.		
				Southborough estimate.	Final figures according to electoral roll.	
Calcutta North (Non-Muhammadan)	Urban		...	31,630	1,972	21,076
North West	,,	,,	..		3,419	
East	,,	,,	.		3,960	
North Central	,,	,,	..		3,822	
South Central	,,	,,	...		1,599	
South	,,	,,	...		3,274	
Howrah Municipal	,,	,,	...	12,092	10,182	
Howrah Municipal	,,	,,	.	11,410	9,304	
24-Parganas Municipal North	,,	,,	.	27,743	12,005	24,117
24-Parganas Municipal South	,,	,,	...		12,112	
Dacca City	,,	,,	...	5,166	2,815	
Burdwan	,,	Rural	...	41,336	28,149	
Birbhum	,,		...	15,770	14,925	
Bankura West	,,	.	...	38,426	16,168	27,956
East	,,	.	...		11,788	

Name and class of Constituency	Number of Voters.		
	Southborough estimate.	Final figures according to electoral roll	
Midnapore North (Non Muhammadan) Rural	64,276	23,936	40,81[illegible]
,, South ,, ,, ...		16,909	
Hooghly *cum* Howrah ,, ,, ...	33,450	29,589	
24 Parganas Rural Central ,, ,, ...	78,796	8,977	29,71[illegible]
24 Parganas Rural South ,, ,, ...		12,197	
24 Parganas Rural North ,, ,, ...		8,513	
Nadia ,, ,, ...	22,986	22,235	
Murshidabad ,, ,, ...	17,378	16,557	
Jessore South ,, ,, ...	48,755	9,741	19,69[illegible]
,, North ,, ,, ...		9,958	
Khulna ,, ,, ...	23,717	20,113	
Dacca ,, ,, ...	27,670	18,011	
Mymensingh West ,, ,, ...	29,765	13,060	27,853
,, East ,, ,, ...		16,793	
Faridpur North ,, ,, ...	44,688	11,297	24,525
,, South ,, ,, ...		13,228	
Bakarganj North ,, ,, ...	52,228	13,864	25,257
,, South ,, ,, ...		11,393	
Chittagong ,, ,, ...	24,890	12,494	
Tippera ,, ,, ...	18,836	11,597	
Noakhali ,, ,, ...	8,612	9,391	
Rajshahi ,, ,, ...	17,019	8,979	
Dinajpur ,, ,, ...	15,721	24,402	
Rangpur ,, ,, ...	29,896	25,535	
Bogra *cum* Pabna ,, ,, ...	17,075	13,503	

Name and class of Constituency.				Number of Voters.		
				Southborough estimate	Final figures according to electoral roll	
Jalda	(Non-Muhammadan)	Rural	...	7,643	8,091	
Jhagram	,,	,,	...	20,853	14,475	
Calcutta North	(Muhammadan)	Urban	..	3,523	1,611	3,069
South	,,	,,	...		1,458	
Howrah Municipal	,,	,,	...	3,087	2,963	
Howrah Municipal	,,	,,	..	7,111	3,215	7,340
Howrah	,,	,,	...		4,125	
Howrah	,,	,,	..	3,922	2,363	
Howrah Division North	,,	Rural	...	21,035	13,622	19,060
,, South	,,	,,	...		5,438	
24-Parganas	,,	,,	..	22,867	15,052	
Hooghly		,,	...	10,177	17,075	
Midnapore	,,	,,	...	6,300	10,873	
Burdwan North	,,	,,	..	20,227	7,404	24,953
South	,,	,,	...		17,549	
Bankura	,,	,,	...	12,382	16,255	
Birbhum West	,,	,,	...	19,996	4,543	16,455
East	,,	,,	...		11,912	
Maldah North-West	,,	,,	...	27,620	21,495	49,039
,, East	,,	,,	..		27,544	
Murshidabad North	,,	,,	...	23,215	15,432	27,829
South	,,	,,	..		12,397	
Dinajpur North	,,	,,	...	40,650	14,416	50,330
,, West	,,	,,	...		22,067	
South	,,	,,			13,847	
Chittagong	,,	,,	...	31,519	28,885	
Tippera	,,	,,	...	25,021	16,778	

Name and class of Constituency.		Number of Voters.		
		Southborough estimate	Final figures according to electoral roll	
Noakhali	(Muhammadan) Rural ...	23,357	26,096	
Rajshahi South	,, ,, ...	34,206	7,816	19,37[illegible]
,, North	,, ,, ...		11,557	
Dinajpur	,, ,, ...	15,786	28,833	
Rangpur West	,, ,, ...	25,687	23,711	11,99[illegible]
,, East	,, ,, ...		18,75[illegible]	
Bogra	,, ,, ...	8,71[illegible]	11,046	
Pabna	,, ,, ...	12,075	13,811	
Malda *cum* Jalpaiguri	,, ,, ...	12,633	15,612	
	Total ...	1,226,740	1,006,316	

Union Boards under Bengal Act V of 1919.

40. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state, district by district, and thana by thana, how many Union Boards have been established up to date under section 6 of Bengal Act V of 1919?

(*b*) Has any Union Court or Union Bench been established in an Union Board?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) A statement[1] is laid on the library table.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

District Boards' expenditure on tanks and wells and on drainage, and expenditure by 24-Parganas District Board on medical relief and primary education.

41. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state what percentage of the total income of each District Board in Bengal has been spent during the last five years on—

(*i*) tanks and wells, and

(*ii*) drainage?

[1]Not printed in these Proceedings.

(*b*) Is it a fact that of all the District Boards the 24-Parganas District Board have invariably been spending, in recent years, the least percentage of their income (not exceeding 16 *per cent.* every year) on medical relief and primary education?

(*c*) If so, is the Hon'ble the Minister considering the desirability of calling the attention of the District Board to this?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) This question does not arise.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred Question No. 41 (a), showing the percentage of income of District Boards spent on tanks and wells and on drainage.

District Board.	Tanks and wells					Drainage				
	1915-16.	1916-17	1917-18	1918-19	1919-20	1915-16.	1916-17	1917-18	1918-19	1919-20
[illegible]	4·7	8·2	7·8	4·0	3·0	.				.
[illegible]	7·1	9·5	7·2	7·6	6·9			.		
[illegible]	24·0	4·9	3·6	1·8	1·5		.		...	
[illegible]	2·6	·8	11·9	7·7	4·1	...				
[illegible]	5·5	7·6	4·0	4·7	3·1					
[illegible]	4·5	5·4	3·8	1·7	2·9					.
24-Parganas ..	5·5	9·1	12·1	10·7	9·2	6	9	·6	.	1
[illegible]	9·4	13·6	13·3	13·1	17·7					
Murshidabad . .	6·5	10·9	12·9	7·7	7·0	3	6	·8	·2	4
Jessore .	7·3	6·7	9·0	6·5	9·0	·01	5	4	·05	14·4
Khulna .	8·5	6·6	[illegible]	6·3	8·6	1·2				...
Dacca	12·1	16·2	12·7	12·0	10·6	...	·19	7	8	7
Mymensingh .	4·0	5·6	5·3	9·7	8·7	·02			..	9
Faridpur	10·7	10·3	10·6	13·2	11·1		..		.	
Barasat .. .	1·5	·7	7·2	6·1	7·1	2·5	7·9	2·4	2·3	1·5
Chittagong ...	17·2	10·5	5·2	1·1	1·8					.
Tippera ...	7·1	1·1	9·1	7·5	3·0	2·0	.			
Noakhali ..	11·8	7·2	6·7	7·3	5·6	15·6	1·7	2·1	7·7	·5
Backergunge . .	7·2	4·4	8·0	7·5	5·0	3	·4	·06	3	13
Dacca	3·2	3·0	5·2	8·5	5·3			·8	5·5	4·6
Jalpaiguri ..	3·4	2·3	1·6	1·9	3·4		..		.	..
Rangpur	3·6	3·0	3·1	1·8	1·9	·5	·06	·3	·02	·02
Bogra	11·0	11·4	8·8	8·1	8·3		..			·04
Pabna	3·7	11·1	9·4	7·4	5·5	...			..	
Malda	6·0	5·5	7·9	7·1	4·3	·3	·2	1·0		·6

Percentage of expenditure on transferred subjects in past years.

42. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to sta what percentage of the total annual charges or expenditure was spe on the heads now coming under the transferred subjects during the la ten years?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: Under the arrangements hitherto in for expenditure has not been separately recorded for "Transferred" an "Reserved" subjects, and in the matter of the several administ tions it has been conducted in most cases against the district allo ment. The question is further complicated by the alteration of terri torial boundaries which took place in 1912, and by the changes budget heads which have been made in connection with the Refor Scheme. It is not, therefore, possible to separate the expenditu incurred in the last ten years on "Transferred" subjects in order calculate the percentage of such expenditure on the total expenditu Figures for the current year are being collected and will be given as far as possible in the budget statement for 1921-22.

Appointment of Ministers and dates of publication of elections.

43. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased t say when the Ministers were appointed?

(*b*) What is the latest date on which the name of an elected memb was published under Rule 12, sub-rule (*9*) of the Bengal Electo Rules?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) On the 3rd January 1921.

(*b*) The 26th January, 1921, is the date on which the last list members elected to the Bengal Legislative Council, at the general ele tion, was published in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

Rice position in Bengal.

44. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state what is the present rice position in Bengal? Has the outturn been such as was anticipated in February last?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that there has been a partial failure of crops in some rice-producing districts, owing to the failure of rain in the month of *Kartic*?

(c) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state in what districts such has been the case and to what extent?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (a) The present position as regards rice is on the whole satisfactory. The final estimate of the outturn of the autumn rice crop is 86 per cent. of the normal outturn. The second forecast of the winter rice crop puts the outturn at 90 per cent. of the normal. The mean price of common rice in the middle of January was Rs. 6-8, against Rs. 6-15 for the corresponding period of 1920. No forecast of the outturn of the past season's crop was published in February last.

(b) The autumn rice crop was generally good throughout the province except in Dinajpur, where it was only 61 per cent. of the normal. The winter rice crop is estimated at less than 75 per cent. of the normal in five districts only. The deficiency is attributed to want of timely rain.

(c) The following statement shows these districts and the estimated outturn in each:—

	Per cent.
Nadia	67
Murshidabad	67
Dinajpur	62
Malda	58
Chittagong Hill Tracts	56

Dacca University Advisory Committee.

45. Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL: (a) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware that there is a strong feeling in Eastern Bengal regarding the constitution of the Dacca University Advisory Committee?

(b) Are the Government considering the desirability of reconstituting that Committee?

(c) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what work the Vice-Chancellor of the Dacca University has been doing since his arrival in India?

(d) When is the Dacca University likely to be in working order?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) The Vice-Chancellor has been engaged in making preparations for the starting of the University.

(d) It is hoped that the Dacca University will be in a position to open its classes in July.

Malaria in Manikganj.

46. Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that malaria is at present rife in the Manikganj subdivision of the Dacca district?

(*b*) What action are the Government taking to meet the situation?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The attention of Government has been drawn to an outbreak of disease in the Manikganj subdivision, and a special inquiry has been made by the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Dacca Circle.

(*b*) Three Sub-Assistants have been deputed there by the Sanitary Commissioner, and it is proposed to spend Rs. 1,075 on the distribution of quinine treatments and influenza pills.

Establishment of Co-operative Services in Bengal.

47. Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Revenue be pleased to place on the table the establishment of the Co-operative Services in Bengal with scales of pay of the different branches?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what the pay and prospects of the Co-operative Inspectors (other than Sub-Deputy Collectors) and Auditors are?

(*c*) Is the latter service a Government one and pensionable?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that Co-operative Inspectors and Auditors consider their pay and prospects to be inadequate?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware of a feeling of resentment among officers in the Department on the ground that while almost all the other services have had their scales of pay revised on account of the present economic strain, their cases have not been considered since the creation of the Department?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what action (if any) they propose to take regarding the increment of the pay of these officers?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) A statement giving the information asked for is laid on the table.

(*b*) The pay of Inspectors and Auditors is shown in the statement referred to in the answer to (*a*). Inspectors are eligible for promotion to the posts of Chief Auditor and Divisional Auditors. Auditors are eligible for promotion to the rank of Inspector.

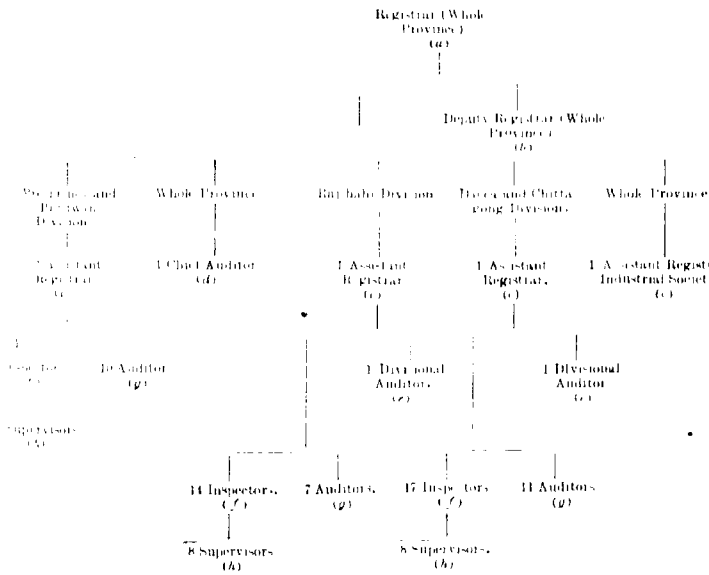
(*c*) Auditors are paid out of audit fees levied from the Societies. They are therefore not Government servants and are not eligible for pensions.

(*d*) and (*e*) No representation on the subject has been received by Government.

(*f*) Till recently the entire staff of the Co-operative Department (including the Registrar of Co-operative Societies) was temporary. The Secretary of State, however, has lately sanctioned the retention of a superior controlling staff as a permanent measure, while the question of the subordinate staff has been left to the consideration of the Local Government. This matter is now being dealt with by Government, in consultation with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, and the question of the pay of the subordinate staff will come under consideration.

Statement referred to in reply to unstarred question No. 47(a).

HIERARCHY OF THE CO-OPERATIVE ORGANIZATION IN BENGAL.



(a) A member of the Indian Civil Service, draws pay according to time scale *plus* a duty allowance of Rs. 150 month.

(b) A member of the Indian Civil Service, draws pay according to time-scale *plus* a duty allowance of Rs. 150 month.

(c) Members of the Provincial Civil Service, draw pay according to time-scale *plus* duty allowance of Rs. 100 month.

(d) The salary attached to this post is Rs. 250—10—400.

(e) The salary attached to each of these posts is Rs. 200—10—350.

(f) These are Probationary Deputy Collectors, Sub Deputy Collectors, Sub Registrar and others.

(g) The Probationary Deputy Collectors, Sub Deputy Collectors and the Sub Registrar draw their grade pay plus allowance of Rs. 50 each. The others draw pay as follows:—

Class I—Rs. 150—10—200. Class II—Rs. 100—10—150. Class III—Rs. 105.

(h) The pay of these officers is Rs. 75 per month. They are paid out of audit fees.

(i) The pay of these officers who work under the Central Bank ranges from Rs. 20 to Rs. 50.

(j) The pay of these officers who work under the Government ranges from Rs. 30 to 50.

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(*b*) What action are the Government taking to meet the situation?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The attention of Government has been drawn to an outbreak of disease in the Manikganj subdivision, and a special inquiry has been made by the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Dacca Circle.

(*b*) Three Sub-Assistants have been deputed there by the Sanitary Commissioner, and it is proposed to spend Rs. 1,075 on the distribution of quinine treatments and influenza pills.

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(*c*) Is the latter service a Government one and pensionable?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that Co-operative Inspectors and Auditors consider their pay and prospects to be inadequate?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware of a feeling of resentment among officers in the Department on the ground that while almost all the other services have had their scales of pay revised on account of the present economic strain, their cases have not been considered since the creation of the Department?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what action (if any) they propose to take regarding the increment of the pay of these officers?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI Khan Bahadur: (*a*) A statement giving the information asked for is laid on the table.

(*b*) The pay of Inspectors and Auditors is shown in the statement referred to in the answer to (*a*). Inspectors are eligible for promotion to the posts of Chief Auditor and Divisional Auditors. Auditors are eligible for promotion to the rank of Inspector.

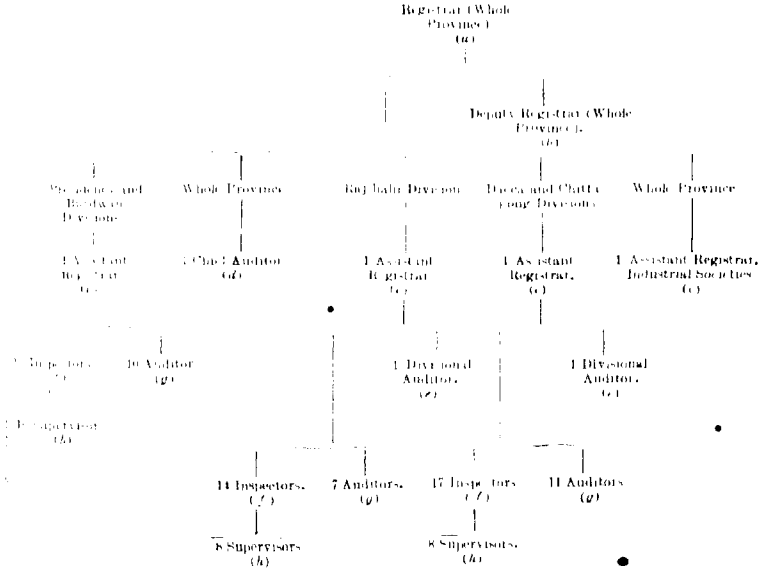
(*c*) Auditors are paid out of audit fees levied from the Societies. They are therefore not Government servants and are not eligible to pensions.

(*d*) and (*e*) No representation on the subject has been received by Government.

(*f*) Till recently the entire staff of the Co-operative Department (including the Registrar of Co-operative Societies) was temporary. The Secretary of State, however, has lately sanctioned the retention of the superior controlling staff as a permanent measure, while the question of the subordinate staff has been left to the consideration of the local Government. This matter is now being dealt with by Government in consultation with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, and the question of the pay of the subordinate staff will come under consideration.

Statement referred to in reply to unstarred question No. 47(a).

HIERARCHY OF THE CO-OPERATIVE ORGANIZATION IN BENGAL.



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(b) A member of the Indian Civil Service, draws pay according to time-scale *plus* a duty allowance of Rs. 150 a month.

(c) Members of the Provincial Civil Service, draw pay according to time-scale *plus* duty allowance of Rs. 100 a month.

(d) The salary attached to this post is Rs. 250—10—400.

(e) The salary attached to each of these posts is Rs. 200—10—350.

(f) These are Probationary Deputy Collectors, Sub Deputy Collectors, Sub Registrar and others.

(g) Probationary Deputy Collectors, Sub Deputy Collectors and the Sub Registrar draw their grade pay plus a duty allowance of Rs. 50 each. The other draw pay as follows —

Class I—Rs. 150—10—200. Class II—Rs. 100—10—150. Class III—Rs. 105.

(h) The pay of these officers is Rs. 75 per month. They are paid out of audit fees.

(i) The pay of these officers who work under the Central Bank ranges from Rs. 20 to Rs. 60.

(j) The pay of these officers who work under the Government ranges from Rs. 30 to 50.

Action of Dacca Drainage Scheme contractors.

48. Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government been drawn to the proceedings of a general meeting of the Municipal Commissioners, Dacca, under date 21st December, 1920, in connection with the inconvenience and danger to the life and health of the public caused by the action of the contractors of the Dacca Drainage Scheme?

(*b*) Are the Government contemplating taking steps in regard to this matter at an early date?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) and (*b*) The Member is referred to the reply given to unstarred question No. 24.

Appointment of retired police officers as Honorary Magistrates of Dacca.

49. Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department aware that three retired police officers have recently been appointed as Honorary Magistrates of Dacca and that these appointments have caused great dissatisfaction to the Dacca public?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of appointing qualified non-officials as Honorary Magistrates instead of the police officers referred to?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) In May 1920 two retired deputy superintendents of police were appointed as Honorary Magistrates at Dacca, and in January 1921 a third was reappointed on the expiry of his term of service. Government are not aware of any dissatisfaction resulting from these appointments.

(*b*) No. While Government are of opinion that a general policy of selecting retired police officers to act as Honorary Magistrates might be open to objection, they are not prepared to debar themselves from making such appointments in the case of individuals who possess special qualifications for the performance of the duties attaching to the post.

Fisheries Department.

50. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing

(*1*) the expenditure incurred in connection with the Fisheries Department since its formation,

(*2*) the amount of work done by the Department during that time,

(*3*) the practical results so far achieved?

(b) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in a position to say whether the supply of fish in the Bengal markets is better and whether they are sold at cheaper rates than before?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (a) (b) A statement is laid on the table.

(c) and (d) For the work done and the results so far achieved, the Member is referred to the annual reports of the Department of Fisheries for the last three years (1917-18 to 1919-20), and to the Government resolutions thereon, copies of which have been placed on the Library table.

(e) Statistics of the supply of fish to the Calcutta markets only are available. The figures for the last three years are as follows:—

	Tons
1917-18	11,067
1918-19	11,242
1919-20	11,197

Statistics of the price of fish are not available.

Statement referred to in the answer to unstarred question No. 50 (a) (b) showing the expenditure incurred in connection with the Fisheries Department since its formation.

Year	Expenditure
	Rs.
1911-12	18,053
1912-13	29,157
1913-14	61,361
1914-15	55,927
1915-16	37,431
1916-17	39,475
1917-18	44,355
1918-19	47,961
1919-20	51,730
Total ...	3,82,450

Appointment from Bar to District and Sessions Judgeship.

1. **Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether, in the matter of the recommendation of the Public Services Commission, it is their intention to appoint only one person from the Bar as a District and Sessions Judge, or if not,

how many such appointments are in contemplation and within what time are they to be made?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: In pursuance of the policy outlined in Government of India Home Department resolution No. 2559, dated the 1st December, 1920 (an extract from which is laid on the table), the Government of Bengal intend to appoint immediately one gentleman from the Bar as a District and Sessions Judge, and to make two more such appointments when suitable opportunities occur. Should the experiment prove successful, this number will ultimately be increased, but it is not possible at present to fix a time-limit or to frame a definite programme.

Extract from Home Department Resolution No. 2559, dated the 1st December, 1920, referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 51.

11. *Appointments from the Bar.*—Local Governments already have power under the rules laid down in the Home Department Notification No. 598, dated the 21st June, 1918, to appoint persons who are not members of the Provincial Service up to one-fourth of the total number of listed appointments. This power will be utilized by them as an experimental measure to appoint District Judges direct from the Bar. It is hoped ultimately to fill not less than 40 posts in this way should qualified men be available. Members of the Bar will, however, be appointed to posts in excess of 25 per cent. of the total number of such appointments, only as new posts are created, and with due regard to the claims of existing members of the Civil Services. Thus the rights of these officers will be duly safeguarded, as was expressly provided for by section 36 (2) of the Government of India Act, 1919, at the same time there will be no reduction in the number of posts open to men promoted from the Provincial Civil Service. Should the experiment prove successful (and on this point the opinion of High Courts will be ascertained from time to time) the full number, *i. e.*, 40, will eventually be made available for persons from the Bar. For the purposes of these appointments, Vakils and Advocates of High Courts and Pleaders of Chief Courts will be eligible as well as Barristers.

Pay and prospects of Kanungoes.

52. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue be pleased to state whether any representations have been received from the Kanungoes of Bengal praying for an increase of pay and betterment of their prospects; and what action, if any, has been taken in the matter?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: Memorials were received last year from several District Kanungoes. The orders passed on the memorials are contained in the Revenue Department letter No. 1702 T. R., dated the 9th September, 1920, a copy of which is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 52.

No. 1702 T. R., dated Darjeeling, the 9th September, 1920.

From THE HON'BLE MR. M. C. McALPIN, I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department,

To The Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division.

I am directed to refer to your communications, noted on the margin, with which you forwarded memorials from certain District Kanungoes employed in the districts of Rajshahi and Pabna, on the subject of the improvement of their pay and prospects. The prayers of the memorialists are —

1. Memorandum No. 2427 J., dated the 30th June 1920.
2. Memorandum No. 2543 J., dated the 9th July 1920.
3. Memorandum No. 2803 J., dated the 3rd August 1920.

(1) that the pay of the District Kanungo may be fixed to be Rs. 120 rising to Rs. 250 by annual increments of Rs. 10,

(2) that the District Kanungo may be regarded as an officer entitled to draw second class travelling allowance,

(3) that 25 per cent. of the Sub-Deputy Collectors be annually recruited from among efficient Kanungoes, and

(4) that in appointing circle officers and managers for wards' and Government estates their claims may be first considered.

2. In reply, I am to say that the pay of District Kanungoes was substantially increased in the year 1911. The District Kanungo service, which formerly consisted of two grades, viz. Rs. 50 and Rs. 75, was reorganised in that year and a time-scale of pay of Rs. 60 per mensem rising to Rs. 120 per mensem by quadrennial increments of Rs. 10 was introduced. In these circumstances Government are not prepared to consider the question of the revision of their pay at present. As regards the prayer for the grant of second class travelling allowance, I am to observe that Kanungoes were formerly allowed to draw travelling allowance only when the distance travelled exceeded 15 miles a day. Since 1913 they have been allowed travelling allowance under the ordinary rules of the Civil Service Regulations. The Governor in Council does not therefore consider that the Kanungoes have a real grievance regarding their travelling allowance. With regard to the third prayer of the memorialists referred to above, I am to say that as the Revenue Department can nominate for only 20 per cent. of the vacancies annually in the cadre of Sub-Deputy Collectors from Departments subordinate to it, no further action can be taken in the matter.

District Kanungoes are already eligible for appointments as managers of Wards' and Government estates. Government do not therefore see the necessity of issuing further orders on the subject.

Curricula of study for Primary Schools.

53. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that sudden changes have been made in the curriculum of study for primary schools in Bengal and that these changes have been enforced as soon as they were made?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that these changes have been prejudicial to the interest of authors and have caused some of them great loss?

(c) Have the Government received any memorial from the authors concerned on this subject?

(d) Are the Government reconsidering their decision on this matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (a) A new syllabus has been sanctioned. It has not yet been brought into operation.

(b), (c) and (d) The original orders of Government prescribing the new syllabus directed that it should be introduced with effect from the 1st January, 1922. The Minister in charge of Education has modified this order and the revised syllabus will now be introduced with effect from the 1st January, 1923.

Grand Trunk Canal project and acquisition of land therefor.

54. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: (a) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation aware that in connection with the Grand Trunk Canal project, the Deputy Collector of Land Acquisition has been serving acquisition notices on owners of all holdings and buildings, whether these fall actually in the alignment zone or outside it?

(b) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that this is contrary to the assurance given by the Government to these owners in reply to their memorial?

(c) Are the Government considering the desirability of making an inquiry into the matter with a view to taking such remedial steps as may be found to be necessary?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (a) Government are not aware that in connection with the Grand Trunk Canal project, the Deputy Collector of Land Acquisition has been serving acquisition notices on owners of holdings which are not required for purposes of the canal. The total area required for purposes of the canal necessarily extends beyond the alignment zone, as extra land is necessary for purposes of subsidiary works, such as staff quarters, service roads, etc., as also for manufacture of bricks and disposal of spoil earth.

(b) No.

(c) No remedial action appears necessary.

Births and deaths.

55. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the excess of deaths over births in Bengal during the official year 1919 was 395,749?

(b) Are the Government contemplating any measures to arrest this threatened depopulation of the country?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The decrease, regrettable as it is, represents less than 1 per cent of the population, and such a decrease occurring in a single year cannot be regarded as indicative of a threatened depopulation of the country. The Member is referred to the first paragraph of the Government resolution on the report of the Sanitary Commissioner for 1919 (published in the Supplement to the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 29th December, 1920, page 1464), in which it is stated that the decrease is attributed to economic pressure resulting from the poor harvest of 1918 combined with the effect of high prices, the prevalence of influenza and the consequent excessive mortality which occurred in the latter part of 1918 and the earlier months of 1919.

Strikes of workmen in the firms of Messrs. Burn & Co. and Messrs. Jessop & Co.

56. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce aware that the workmen under Messrs. Burn & Co. and Messrs. Jessop & Co., numbering 12,000 in all, have been on strike for nearly a month?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that in these days of high prices these strikes cause serious distress among the workmen?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking early steps to settle the strikes by arbitration?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: (*a*) Government are aware that strikes were recently in progress in the works mentioned. Both strikes are now over. The strike in Messrs. Burn & Co.'s works began on the 14th December, 1920, involved 5,000 men, and terminated on the 26th January, 1921. The strike in Messrs. Jessop & Co.'s works began on the 23rd December, 1920, involved 2,000 men, and terminated on the 29th January, 1921.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) In view of the answer to (*a*), this question does not arise.

Grant-in-aid to the Midnapore College.

57. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware that the refusal of the Director of Public Instruction to revise the scale of the grant-in-aid to the Midnapore College has been very keenly felt by the people of the district?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that this refusal has been specially prejudicial to the interests of the professors of the College?

(c) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the increments in the salary of these officers are long overdue?

(d) Are the Government reconsidering their decision on this matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (a) The Director of Public Instruction was powerless in the matter. He had no funds which could be devoted to increasing the grant-in-aid to the Midnapore College. No representation has been submitted to the Minister.

(b) The Minister is aware that the inability of the Director of Public Instruction to revise the grant-in-aid prevented the College authorities from increasing the salaries of the professors and lecturers.

(c) and (d) The Minister is prepared to reconsider the question of increasing the grant-in-aid to the Midnapore College when the Education Budget for 1921-22 has been sanctioned, but he will not be in a position to increase the grant to the College, unless increased funds for grants-in-aid are placed at his disposal.

Closing Charitable Dispensary at Rajarampur under orders from Civil Surgeon, Burdwan.

58. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state why the charitable dispensary at Rajarampur in the flood-stricken area on the right bank of Damodar has been closed under orders of the Civil Surgeon, Burdwan?

(b) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that no non-official medical aid can be had for miles around Rajarampur and that the villagers there are very poor?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (a) Since 1918 the District Board has opened a temporary fever dispensary at Rajarampur for 4 months every year. In 1920-21 it was opened on the 1st September and closed after working for 4 months in accordance with the orders of the District Board.

(b) The Government have no information as to the local conditions. The Government will inquire.

Distress in Paikgacha and other villages in Jessore district.

59. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: (a) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue aware that the people in Paikgacha, and the numerous villages in Magura police-station, are in dire want of food, clothing and shelter?

(b) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that in consequence they are dying of cholera and fever in numbers?

(c) Is the Hon'ble the Member also aware that in North Magura and certain other places bordering on the river Kapotakshi, adjacent to Satkhira, the crops have totally failed over an area of about 50 square miles?

(d) Are the Government considering the desirability of ordering an immediate inquiry into the situation and of taking such steps as may be necessary to relieve the distress of the people?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (a) Prior to the *aman* harvest the beggar class and a few persons without means of support suffered considerably owing to the fact that the charity usually available in the Parkgacha and Magura villages in the districts of Khulna and Jessore was temporarily withheld. The District Magistrate accordingly arranged for the distribution of rice and cloth at convenient centres. Since the *aman* crop came into the market the Magistrate has visited all the affected areas and satisfied himself that the continuance of gratuitous relief can no longer be justified.

(b) Cholera appeared in sporadic form in many villages of the Khulna district in November last. The local authorities, with the help of the Sanitary and Deputy Sanitary Commissioners, took remedial measures, which appear to have stamped out the epidemic during the month of December. The current epidemic reports show no cases of cholera in the villages of Magura and Parkgacha stations.

(c) Government are aware that over an area of 50 square miles near the Kabodak river the crop has totally failed. The area in question is liable to saline inundation and ample work is now available on the construction of embankments for the local inhabitants. The District Magistrate, who visited this area, reported that at present there is no appreciable distress in that area. The crop in North Magura was good.

(d) The District Officer is in close personal touch with the situation and no further inquiry is necessary at present.

Co-operative banks in villages.

60. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (a) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Revenue aware of the fact that co-operative banks in villages are not opened in spite of repeated calls from the honorary organisers?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to say whether the Government are taking any measures to set the matter right?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (a) Whenever the legal formalities are observed no co-operative societies are refused registration, provided the applicants are

of good character and can either finance themselves or arrange to be financed by a Central Bank.

(*b*) This question does not arise in view of the answer to question (*a*).

Election of Deputy-President.

The Council proceeded to the election of the Deputy-President.

The PRESIDENT: The Council will now proceed to the election of the Deputy-President. I have got only two notices, namely—(1) for the election of Babu Surendra Nath Ray as Deputy-President, proposed by Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri, seconded by Mr. D. C. Ghosh; and (2) the other is for the election of Dr. A. Suhrawardy, proposed by Mr. Watson-Smyth and seconded by Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M. Afzal. The Council will now proceed to the election.

A ballot was taken with the following result:—

Mr. S. N. Ray, 59 votes.

Dr. A. Suhrawardy, 46 votes.

Mr. S. N. Ray was declared elected.

The Deputy-President's Emoluments Bill.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to determine the salary of the Deputy-President of the Bengal Legislative Council. In so doing, I would first of all offer my congratulations to Mr. S. N. Ray upon the honour which the Council has done him. Both he and the other candidate are, I am sure all will agree, well suited by their attainments and long experience of previous Councils to preside over our deliberations. But when there are two candidates for one vacancy it is obvious that only one can be taken while the other must be left, and as regards Dr. Suhrawardy, we can only wish that he may have better fortune next time.

Sir, the Bill, which is before the Council, is of a commendable brevity, which one might sometimes wish was characteristic of all our Bills. It is introduced in compliance with section 72 C of the Government of India Act, clause 2 of which says that there shall be a Deputy-President of the Legislative Council who shall preside at meetings of the Council in the absence of the President, while clause 5 provides that the Deputy-President shall receive such salary as may be determined by an Act of the local Legislature. Under those provisions of the Government of India Act we have accordingly to introduce a Bill covering the point at issue, and it is proposed in the Bill, as a basis of discussion, to provide for a salary at the rate of Rs. 5,000 per annum. The actual sum will be determined by the vote of the Council. Obviously it was incumbent upon the Government to put forward some figure, and in arriving at a figure of Rs. 5,000 we were guided by

the consideration that the office was one of honour and dignity, which, therefore, should carry with it a reasonable though not excessive remuneration. The duties of the post may or may not be arduous. We hope they will not be, as we trust, Sir, that you will long be spared with health and strength to preside over our debates. The duty of the Deputy-President will be to preside over the Council in the unavoidable absence of the President, and doubtless in other miscellaneous ways he will be able to help the President in the business of the Council. There were various ways by which the remuneration might have been fixed. We might have given a daily fee for each sitting of the Council. That, I am given to understand, is the method proposed in the case of the Deputy-President of the Legislative Assembly, the rate, I am told, which has been suggested being Rs. 30 per diem. It seemed to us that that course presented difficulties. The Deputy-President might be asked to do work on days on which the Council was not actually sitting, and a daily fee of small amount is perhaps not altogether consistent with the dignity of the office. A second method would have been to fix a monthly salary to be paid throughout the year. To that there was the possible objection of calculations for broken periods, if the salary was to be dependent on the actual sittings of the Council, while otherwise the salary might have been paid during months in which the Council was not in session. We therefore came round to the proposal of the Bill and we understand from the daily press that this course is also about to be proposed in Madras. We have put forward the salary clause only provisionally for discussion and the future form of it will depend upon the vote of the Council.

The Bill is simple in character, and we do not contemplate its reference to a Select Committee. The issue is clear and can only be decided by a vote of the Council. I propose therefore to move on the 21st instant that the Bill be taken into consideration with a view to its being passed.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I thank you very much for referring to my services in this Council and I am also thankful to you for having elected me as Deputy-President of this Council. It is the only elected office which is under the Council. I have assured some of my friends that I am not going to take any emoluments for the office so long as I am here.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I beg to move that this Council is of opinion that no salary should be attached to the post of the Deputy-President and that the Bill be postponed *sine die*. I would have used a stronger word "rejected," but as my learned friend says that he would not take any salary I use the words "*sine die*." Sir, we are a poor people and indeed cannot afford to spend a single pice on unnecessary things. All of you know that there

is a deficit of 2½ crores in Bengal and that the deficit will, it is rumoured, be made up, by appropriating surplus balance. When we shall be able to husband our resources there will be time enough to pay any salary to anybody. But at present there are a great many things to do for our people and we cannot miss-spend one single rupee. The gentleman, who has just been elected, has refused to take any remuneration. Dr. Suhrawardy would not have taken any remuneration either. There are at least two dozen men in this Council who were willing to work without any remuneration. Therefore there is no use forcing any salary upon them. I therefore propose that there should be no salary and the Bill be postponed *sine die*.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I have much pleasure in supporting the motion which has just been moved by my friend.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Order! Under the rules there can be no debate. I would refer you to section 50 of the Manual. It says that, if a motion for leave to introduce a Bill be proposed, the President after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the member who moves and from the member who opposes the motion, should put the question. I do not propose to allow any debate, and what I would do now is to ask Sir Henry Wheeler to make a brief explanatory statement and, after he has done so, to ask the member opposing the motion to do the same and then I will put it to the vote.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: With reference to the speech that we have just heard I would like to explain that under the Government of India Act we must have a Deputy-President, and he, under the same Act, shall have such salary as may be voted by the Legislative Council. I submit, therefore, Sir, that if we disregard that provision by declining to allow the introduction of the Bill, we are disregarding a statutory provision governing the constitution of the Council. As regards the generous statement of Babu Surendra Nath Ray that he has personally no desire to take the remuneration attached to this post, we all admire, of course, the public spirit which has instigated that offer. But I would put it to him that an equally efficacious way of achieving his aim would be, after allowing the Bill to pass into law, to refrain from drawing whatever salary is fixed for the post, a course which will rejoice the heart of Mr. Kerr. That, it seems to me, would be the proper position which would at the same time ensure compliance with the Government of India Act.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I propose to use the word "*sine die*," because my friend Babu Surendra Nath Ray desired me to do so; otherwise I would say "reject the Bill altogether."

The PRESIDENT: You can only give an explanatory statement and not enter into a debate regarding the merits of the Bill, which comes up when the Bill is taken into consideration.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: I would have no objection to the Bill being passed, but what I object to is that there should be no mention of salary attaching to the office and the post should be an honorary one.

The PRESIDENT: You are out of order

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: Am I in order in calling attention to the fact that if the Vice-President declines to accept the salary—

The PRESIDENT: I cannot allow any speech Gentlemen, before I put the motion, I may say that generally at the stage of the introduction of a Bill the principles of the Bill are not to be discussed. The general principles of the Bill are discussed when the motion is that the Bill be taken into consideration or that it be referred to a Select Committee Then you discuss the general principles of the Bill and after that you discuss the various provisions of the Bill one by one The motion that leave be given to introduce a Bill means nothing more than this—that the Bill is placed before the House However, the rules allow a member to oppose the Bill, and in this case the Bill has been opposed. I will now ask the Council to divide.

The Council accordingly divided and the result of the division was as follows:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Mesbah Uddin.
Ali, Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir.
Ali, Maulvi Syed Muksood.
Ali, Mr Syed Nasim.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
Barton, Mr. H.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Basu, Rai Bahadur Nalinaksha.
Birla, Babu Chaneshyamdas.
Birley, Mr L.
Bompas, Mr. C. H..
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Campbell, Mr. J.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra Ray.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cochran, Mr. A.
Cohen, Mr D. J.
Das, Mr. S. R.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Donald, Mr. J.
Faroqui, K. C. M.
Chose, Mr. D. C.
Gordon, Mr. A. D.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Marr, Mr. A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Morgan, Mr. C.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Poddar, Babu Keshoram.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Rae, Mr. W. R.
Raheem, Mr. Abdur.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abdur.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Ray Choudhury Raja Manmatha Nath.
Rhodes, Mr. C. W.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. J. E.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilall Singh.
Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus.
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.
Suhrawardy, Mr. Z. R. Zahid.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Watson-Smyth, Mr. R. M.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

NOES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Afzal, Khan Bahadur, Nawabzada K. M.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Janah, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan, Raja Narendra Lal.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Maitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhyaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.

The Ayes being 66 and the Noes 49, the motion was carried.

The Secretary then read the title of the Bill.

Resolutions

(under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest).

The PRESIDENT: Although the resolution standing in the name of Mr. Watson-Smyth is No. 8 in the Appendix to the List of Business, those who precede him have expressed a desire that his resolution should be moved first. I accordingly call on Mr. Watson-Smyth to move his resolution.

Hour of meeting of Council.

Mr. R. M. WATSON-SMYTH: "This Council recommends to the Government that His Excellency the Governor be approached with the request that future meetings of the Bengal Legislative Council be summoned for 3 o'clock in the afternoon."

This is as far as I know the procedure followed at Westminster, the mother of Parliaments. The trouble about being elected to this Council is that in Bengal, and specially in Calcutta, we have practically no leisured class. We have to take our legislative duties in competition with our business duties, and therefore it is difficult to get the best men that Calcutta and Bengal can produce, because they are afraid either on the one hand that they will neglect their legislative duties on account of their ordinary work, or, on the other hand, that they will neglect their work in order to attend the Council. Now we in this

new Council are so newly acquainted I am afraid I cannot say with certainty the classes to which we all belong, but I think I am fairly accurate in saying that the great majority can be divided into four classes—the officials, lawyers, professors and business men. I will appeal first to the officials. They of course are to a certain extent more fortunate than the rest of us. They have a knack which we have not of carrying their office wherever they go by the assistance of a red chaprassi and a pile of mysterious things called files. But still it must be very inconvenient to them to have to carry through urgent business sitting in some room off the lobbies of the Council chamber, and it would be much more convenient if they could spend the mornings, at any rate, of Council days doing their work in their own offices. As regards lawyers, especially Calcutta lawyers, I think I can count on their support. It is not only inconvenient, but also it costs them a good deal of money if they are unable to attend to their work on Council days either at their chambers or in court. Professors too suffer from the same difficulty, and their presence is required in their lecture rooms or at the University. As regards business men—Indians as well as Europeans—the difficulty is very great and the inconvenience of attending the Council meetings in the morning will go a great way in keeping the best men from the Council for fear that their business will suffer. The whole point is this, that men have got to make up their mind whether they can do the two things, and the conclusion that many of them come to is that they cannot. Therefore either they will attend to their business and neglect their duties by being absent from the Council, or else they will do their best to attend Council, and if they find that makes them neglect their business duties they will either resign or at any rate not offer themselves for the next election. If, however, a compromise can be come to, namely, that we can do both without detriment to either, then I think it will be a good thing both for the men themselves and for this Council. The compromise that I suggest is that we so arrange this Council to meet that the business men can spend their mornings in their offices, and then having had their lunch they can come round and devote the rest of their day to the legislative duty. I think that in this way and in this way only shall we attract to this Council a class of men that it is most necessary should be returned. I therefore, Mr. President, commend this resolution to the Council.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I have much pleasure in seconding this resolution which has just been moved. It is one of the duties of this Council to develop Indian industries and encourage commercial education. That is the reason why we should have the co-operation of the European merchants who are the members of this Council. It appears that it is most inconvenient for them to attend the meetings of this Council at 11 o'clock and it appears that it will be most convenient for

them to attend meetings of this Council at 3 o'clock. Therefore, Sir, I think we would be justified in voting for the resolution. It will be most inconvenient for the lawyers of Calcutta, for the official members of this Council, to attend at 11 o'clock, and I may draw your special attention to the fact that the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation and the Chairman of the Calcutta Improvement Trust are members of this Council. They cannot be expected to attend this Council at 11 o'clock, otherwise the work of the local authorities will materially suffer. I may also state, Mr. President, that the meetings of the British Parliament, the House of Commons, as well as the House of Lords are held at 4 o'clock, and therefore I think we would be justified in convening meetings at 3 o'clock as suggested instead of at 11 o'clock.

The PRESIDENT: I would now call upon Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur to move his amendment, and after the amendments are moved there will be a discussion.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur moved: "that in the resolution to be moved by Mr. Watson-Smyth, for the figure '3' the figure '2' be substituted."

As many of the members of the old Council may remember, we used to meet at 11 o'clock and when there was a number of important measures for discussion or a number of resolutions to be gone through, the Council continued to sit till 6 o'clock with an interval of one hour for lunch. On an average, I believe, we used to sit for about six hours and the proposal of my friend Mr. Watson-Smyth reduces that time to three hours. Having regard also to the fact that considerable time is taken up by questions and answers and also supplementary questions, I think the time that will be left at the disposal of this Council for the transaction of the ordinary business will be quite inadequate. Perhaps an earlier hour than this would be more suitable to transact the volume of business which, I am sure, will grow larger and larger day by day, and I think some compromise—I used the word "compromise" as has been used by Mr. Watson-Smyth—may be come to, and I suggest that for the figure "3" the figure "2" be substituted. I may explain that it will not entail any inconvenience to any professional member. In the first place, as we all know from our experience of the old Council that the questions and answers take not less than three quarters of an hour, and looking to the number of members on the former Council, which was 52, and now we have 139 members, and also looking to the large, growing and extensive interest which my countrymen are now taking in the affairs of my country, I am sure the number of questions will also grow larger and larger, and I think if we have the meetings at 2 o'clock we may safely leave one hour margin for questions and answers. Therefore those who are not able to come exactly at 2 P.M. may come a little later, say 2-45 or 3 P.M. without any sacrifice of their profession. I know that some of

my learned friends here have got their succulent pastures in that corner of an adjoining building (I mean no offence), they may attend the Council meetings at any hour they please without putting themselves to any inconvenience, as they know that they need not attend when the questions are put and answers given. To those of them who want to put any supplementary question, my reply is that they may do so even if they come half an hour later, and the questions might also be so arranged as to suit the convenience of the members as well. As regards my friend Babu Amulya Dhone Addy's argument that the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation and the Chairman of the Improvement Trust, who are very important members of this body, will be very much inconvenienced, if they are to attend the Council at 11 A.M., I would say that 3 P.M. would be a more inconvenient hour for them. But Babu Amulya Dhone Addy forgets the fact that the Chairman of the Corporation is more required in the afternoon to transact the business of the Corporation, and the work of the Improvement Trust will not suffer if the Chairman attends the Council an hour earlier. I am sure neither Mr. Donald nor Mr. Rompas will send many interpellations to embarrass the Hon'ble Ministers. I do not wish to further detain the House on this subject, but I hope that this modest compromise will be accepted by Mr. Watson-Smyth.

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA moved "that in the resolution to be moved by Mr. Watson-Smyth, for the figure '3' the figure '1' be substituted."

I beg to move that 1 P.M. be substituted for 3 P.M., as the time for the meeting of the Council as proposed in the original resolution by Mr. Watson-Smyth. 3 P.M. might well suit the convenience particularly of those of the Calcutta members who are otherwise engaged in the High Court, mercantile offices, banks, etc., but it will be very disadvantageous on many grounds to other members, especially to the mufassal members, who have to keep away from their homes for days together to attend the meetings of the Council. The mufassal members who desire to return home early can easily avail themselves of some of the early trains which usually start between 2 and 5 P.M. if the Council sits at an earlier hour, but if the Council sits as late as 3 P.M. as is proposed in the original resolution, it is quite possible that all the items in the agenda paper would not be finished in the course of the day. This would mean the detention of the mufassal members in Calcutta involving unnecessary halting charges. As regards the amendment of Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, I think that 2 P.M. is the usual hour for lunch, but if the meetings are held at 1 P.M. it will not be too early and at the same time give short recess to the members for their lunch. For these reasons I think that the Council should sit at 1 P.M. instead of at 3.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I would like to intervene at this stage primarily with reference to the position under the standing

orders of this Council. Under these standing orders the Council shall meet at such an hour as the Governor may appoint, and although, following precedent, we have started to-day at 11 o'clock, I am authorised by His Excellency to say that it is his wish to fix such an hour for future meetings as, compatibly with the efficient discharge of the business of the Council, will best meet the convenience of the majority of the members. He will be guided therefore, largely, by the results of to-day's discussion.

Apart from that point, one may perhaps say a word on the resolution as it strikes one personally, and we doubtless all, quite legitimately, regard the matter largely in its personal bearing on ourselves. From the official point of view the proposed resolution has much to commend it. It is unfortunately true, as Mr. Watson-Smyth said, that our files can follow us about, but, there is a difference between doing work in office and doing it here in the hurried moments between the alarms and excursions of division bells and what not. Therefore we officials would appreciate the hour suggested, as it will enable us to get a few hours in the morning, in which to deal with our ordinary work, with which it will take us all our time to keep pace. Of the two amendments I like the second least, as it seems to me neither one thing nor the other. It anticipates the afternoon while not allowing the full ordinary duration of the morning. The amendment of Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur is perhaps not open to that criticism in the same degree, but having had some experience of his superb unpunctuality in past meetings of this Council, I cannot but feel that when he says 2 P.M., he does so with the mental reservation that, in his own personal case, it will be 3 P.M. I would also put another point, and that is we shall, unfortunately, have sittings in the hot weather, and it is of some advantage, both in the interests of our energy and temper, that we should, if possible, have the greater part of our sittings in the cooler portion of the day. For my own part, then, I can only say that the proposal of the resolution is quite acceptable.

Babu NIRODE BEHARY MULLICK: The principle on which the resolution is based and the discussion on it reminds me of the philosophy of Jacques in *As You Like It*, in which he says "it is 10 o'clock. An hour after it will be 11." Perhaps on this principle, I believe some members suggested 1, some 2 and some 3 P.M., but I want to remind them that unfortunately Calcutta is not the whole of Bengal and that there is a Bengal outside Calcutta. We, who belong to that Bengal, cannot afford to be present at the meetings at 3 P.M. which may last for months. The hour that will suit us best would be 11 o'clock, but Mr. Watson-Smyth has spoken of a compromise, and I suggest that the compromise be 1 o'clock.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: My suggestion is that it will be very inconvenient for all of us who come from the distant mufassal

places if the Council sits at 3 P.M. instead of 11 A.M. We should look at this question from another standpoint, namely, what would be the most suitable hour for the Council as a collective body and not from the standpoint of individual convenience or otherwise. We have got a whole-time President and we have got more than half a dozen Executive Councillors and Ministers. Why should not then the Council be also given whole-time sittings so that we can get through a lot of work in the course of the day? The time suggested may suit a certain section of Calcutta lawyers or influential Calcutta merchants and traders in such a way as to make both their ends meet. But what about the poor people who come from Chittagong, Noakhali or Comilla? The members who come from the mufassal have also got their professional and other duties and it is not proper to look to the interest of one section only. It is really sad that the Calcutta lawyers, merchants and traders cannot afford to spend a certain part of the day in the interest of the reformed Council. They need not be as regular in their attendance at the Council as a student who seeks a prize for regular attendance. I do not wish to take up the precious time of this Council any further, and I only wish to say that none of these proposals should be accepted by this Council.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: It was not my intention to take part in this debate, but the reason that I wish to say a few words on this resolution is this. It is all very well to philosophise on a matter of this nature. It is easy enough for members of this Council coming from the mufassal, and I must confess that, until I was a member of Council, I was very much a mufassal man myself, to say what their conveniences or inconveniences are. You have heard the last speaker say that as we have got a whole-time President, other individuals, who come to this Council—officials and non-officials—should devote their whole time to the Council. That certainly is not a reasonable proposition. You must not forget that these officials or non-officials have got other business to attend to as well. In my opinion this Council can only decide upon one of the two courses—one is to meet as you do now and adjourn after what is known as lunch time, and the other is to meet after lunch time whether it be 2 or 3 P.M. and to proceed with your work until you do not wish to proceed any further. I think some of you, gentlemen, seem to forget that in a new Council of this nature those of you who have got anything to say can much shorten the time of discussion by avoiding verbosity. Those of us who realised this in the past can very well confine our speeches to 5 minutes instead of 15. We have sat for 4 or 5 hours, because we have been accustomed to it, but I am sure that the members of the new Council will not have the same patience with the great flow of eloquence that is sure to take place when an important debate goes on in this House. With due deference to my friend Mr. Watson-Smyth I consider this resolution to be rather premature, but it is a matter on which

I have an entirely open mind, and I consider that the best course for you to follow would be to accept as an experiment for this session, at any rate, what Mr. Watson-Smyth has proposed. You can easily change it, for nothing is likely to be sacrosanct in these days, nor do I suggest that Mr. Watson-Smyth's proposition should be held sacrosanct. What is more you can learn by experience whether it is going to be convenient or inconvenient, but I do not know how far the Rai Bahadur, who would of course like to take plenty of Bhim Nag's *sandesh* with his mid-day meal, would agree to this. There are people who have their lunch at 1-30, they will have to hurry up to the Council Chamber if the meeting is held at 2 P.M. I think, therefore, that the best course in a matter of this kind is to adopt as an experimental measure the hour suggested in the resolution which has been moved by Mr. Watson-Smyth. Whether the new hour would make it possible for the European members to get away from the Council chamber in time for their dinner or for dances at the Saturday Club my friend Mr. Watson-Smyth knows best, but for the present I think our best course would be to adopt the resolution.

Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: We must know how may hours a day we are to work here, and when that is settled we can decide when we shall sit.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: There is so much difference of opinion on this subject that it is impossible for me to formulate what would be the hour, and I think when there is so much difference it is better to stick to the old hour and come to the Council at 11 A.M. and go away from it at 5 or 6 P.M. That arrangement seemed to be a convenient one for the last four years when I was in the Old Council and none complained of the arrangement. The way in which work is being done in the Council shows that much time may be spent on discussing a single resolution. Consequently it will be better for the Council to consider whether we should start our work at 11 A.M. If this be not done I can prophesy that the mufassal members will have to wait in Calcutta for days together. It strikes me that in the new Council there being so many members, much time will be taken up in the discussion of a single resolution, as many members would like to represent their views.

Consequently I am afraid that if the Council does not sit at 11 A.M. we will have to wait longer in the Council chamber. 3 P.M. may be a convenient hour for the Calcutta merchants, pleaders and business men, but they ought to consider also the convenience of the mufassal members as well. If that is done I am sure there will be no dissentient voice in the matter of fixing an hour. The Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan suggested that we might start at 3 P.M. as an experiment, but I beg to submit that that will be inconvenient to many members and

that is why I disagree with him. With these few words I beg to oppose the resolution.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I desire to intervene in the debate in the hope that perhaps the Calcutta men and the mufassal men would come to some agreement. Speaking for myself it does not matter to me whether the Council starts its sitting at 3 P.M., 2 P.M. or 1 P.M. — and these are the three proposals before the House. I find that a lot of apparently divergent opinion has been expressed, but I am inclined to think that divergence is more apparent than real. Some of the mufassal members think that if 3 P.M. be fixed it will be very hard on them. I may say at once that I am in favour of this Council conducting its business in a business-like manner and I am not in favour of short hours. I have every sympathy with members who are dragged from their distant mufassal homes and detained here for days and days together, but I have no doubt that Calcutta members appreciate their position quite as well as I do. If we have fairly long hours then we really meet both sides. Suppose we start at 3 P.M. and go on till 7 P.M. That will mean four hours' work. Did we really do very much more than that under the old system? Under the old system we used to sit at 11, adjourn for lunch at 1-30, and reassemble at 2-30 and then go on till 4-30 or 5. That meant about four and a half hours' work. Therefore if we all make up our minds to work four hours I think the mufassal members will not have anything to complain, and if the Calcutta members wish to have their convenience suited by the mufassal members, they can best do so by coming to a compromise. But of course when the business on the agenda paper is not heavy we could adjourn earlier than 7 P.M., but if the business were heavy we could go on a little longer, because I think it is to the interests of the mufassal members that the business should be finished in as few days as possible.

The Council here adjourned for lunch.

The Council assembled after lunch.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: I have followed with the closest interest the debate on the resolution which has been placed before this House by Mr. Watson-Smyth. I regret that there should be any tug-of-war on this question between the commercial members and the lawyer members on the one hand, and the mufassal members on the other. Unfortunately, for myself, I happen to be both a merchant and a lawyer, but I refuse to believe, Sir, that any case has at all been made out for departing from the practice which used to be followed in this Council. In deciding this question we should be moved by a consideration not of the convenience of one section of the community or the other. Besides, the advocates and the supporters of this resolution and the amendments have forgotten one very important fact and that is this: that if the time is fixed at 2 or 3 o'clock, it will

interfere with the time fixed for the prayer of the Muhammadan as well as the Hindu members. I therefore feel no hesitation in opposing both the resolution as well as all the amendments that have been placed before the House.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I quite agree with what has fallen from the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan and also from the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter. But one thing ought to be considered before we come to a final decision. On behalf of the Muhammadan members I want to point out that between the hours suggested by the Hon'ble Mr. Mitter time for *Isai* and *Magrab* prayers intervenes, and in order to meet the convenience of all the members it is desirable that the Council should meet at 3, *i.e.*, after the *Zohar* prayer, and there should be two short recesses for the *Isai* and *Magrab* prayers and the Council should adjourn at 8 P.M.

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: As a compromise I propose that instead of 3 or 2 o'clock, I think it would be better to have the Council at 2-30. We adjourn Council at 1-30, so we may meet at 2-30.

The PRESIDENT: This comes by way of an amendment, of which notice should be given. I cannot allow it.

Mr. C. H. BOMPAS: This discussion has turned so far largely on the question of convenience, and to a certain extent it appears that the convenience of mufassal members is somewhat different from the convenience of the Calcutta members, but I wish to point out that Mr. Watson-Smyth raised another branch of the subject. He pointed out that if this Council meets at 11, it would probably mean that a certain number of leaders in the commercial world, and in law and other professions, would be debarred from standing for membership of this Council. I believe that all of us here are convinced of the importance of the functions which this Council will perform in future. We are all anxious that it should fulfil these functions in the best way. We must all be convinced that it is most important that this Council should be truly representative of all the interests in the province. I think there is not a single member in the mufassal who would stand for membership in this Council if it met at 11, but who would refrain from doing so if its meetings were held at 3 o'clock. It is also undeniable that there are a considerable number of the leading men in Calcutta, who will be debarred from standing for membership if it sits at 11 A.M. I therefore appeal to the mufassal members of this Council that we should so arrange our business that it may be possible for the leaders of all branches of work in this province to take part in our deliberations. I am not sure that mufassal members have really any grievance. It is quite certain that as the work of the Council increases, members will

find that their duties will not consist solely in attending meetings and assisting in debates. They will find that there is a great deal of work to be done outside this Council, there will be an interchange of ideas between leaders from all parts of the province and I am quite sure that all this will take several hours of their time every day. I believe that mufassal members will find that they will have to spend their time in these consultations and these arrangements, and so on, up till 10 o'clock, they can then have their bath and meal and nap and be ready to attend the Council at 2-30. They will not find much inconvenience, this is the natural course of life in Bengal. It is the only proper course in the hot weather. I therefore appeal to the mufassal members partly for facility of their own work, but mainly on the grounds put forward by Mr. Watson-Smyth, that many important interests will be debarred from being represented on this Council if it sits at 11 A.M. I think the second half of the day is the most convenient for our deliberations.

Khan Bahadur KHWAJA MOHAMED AZAM: I regret that I have to oppose the resolution moved by Mr. Watson-Smyth, changing the hour of the sitting of the Council from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. The practice of holding the Council at 11 A.M. has among other advantages this much in its favour, that Muhammadan members can avail themselves of the lunch adjournment to offer their *Zohar* prayer. If the hour is changed to 3 P.M. the Muhammadan members must have two adjournments of the Council, one for half an hour for *Isai* prayer between 4 and 5 P.M., and the other for half an hour for *Maorab* prayer just before sunset. In the course of three or four hours to adjourn the Council twice will not be conducive to good work.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I did not wish to take part in this debate, but I feel that in a matter of such importance, I ought not to give a silent vote. It is quite clear that the trend of mufassal opinion is distinctly in favour of fixing the hour at 11 in the morning. But I desire to point out to my friends in the mufassal that they are under a misapprehension if they assume that their morning hours will be lost. Nothing of the kind. There will be hard and strenuous work as the Council proceeds with its duties and responsibilities. There are important Bills which will have to be introduced and in regard to which references will have to be made to Select Committees. These Select Committees, following the precedent of the House of Commons, will meet in the morning. Then there is, without anticipating the future, the Calcutta Municipal Bill coming up for consideration, the amendment of the Bengal Municipal Act will also have to be taken up, and there will also be the amendment of the Local Self-Government Act. Select Committees will be appointed in connection with all these Bills, and these Select Committees must meet in the early hours of the day. There will be other committees, the character of which I am unable at the present moment to foreshadow

There will be an abundance of work for mufassal members in the morning hours, and this can only be done if the Council meets at 3 o'clock. At the same time it seems to me that as we are here to promote public business, it must be done in a spirit of compromise and self-sacrifice. We should not think of ourselves only. Whether in this Council or anywhere else we are not always permitted to have our own way. I appeal to mufassal members and those whose personal convenience will be affected to look at the question from the larger standpoint of efficient work and public utility. It seems to me quite evident that there is a large section of non-official members whose presence we want in this Council and who are here in considerable numbers, and who will help us in our deliberations—I mean the Calcutta merchants and lawyers who are here to-day. We require their wide experience. I think we should go half-way to accede to their wishes, and I may point out that so far as I am concerned, the morning is very convenient to me, the afternoons are not. I go to bed at 9 in the evening, but I am prepared to sit up till midnight, if necessary, for the work of this Council. I therefore appeal to my friends in the mufassal to set an example of self-abnegation in this matter, a sacrifice of personal interests and personal convenience to suit the other members who are in Calcutta and elsewhere, and to accept the suggestion of Mr. Watson-Smyth. I am perfectly certain that if we find that this arrangement is not suitable and causes inconvenience to a large number of the members, we should be quite prepared to make a change. Our rules are not as unalterable as the laws of the Medes and Persians. Let us try it as an experiment for this session, and if we find it inconvenient we can change it. I hope that no division will be called for and that Mr. Watson-Smyth's resolution will be accepted.

Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI spoke in Bengali opposing the original resolution.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ also spoke in Bengali opposing the original resolution.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE moved that the question be now put.

The PRESIDENT: I think I should allow the debate to continue. It is important that we should have the views of as many members as possible on a question like this.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: I move that the motion moved by Mr. Watson-Smyth about fixing the time at 3 o'clock be dropped, obviously because the Muhammadan members offer their prayers just in the afternoon. But of course if some recess is given for offering their *Asar* prayer and the *Magrib* prayer which is said at sunset, the afternoon will be suitable. My objection on behalf of the Muhammadan members is that there ought to be a recess of about a quarter of an

hour for the *Asar* prayer, and another recess for the *Magrab* prayer if the Council sits beyond sunset. That is my point for submission before the Council.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I have only one word to say. I desired at first that the meeting should take place at 3 o'clock, but after hearing the mufassal members I have completely changed my mind. Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea spoke of sacrifices to be made by the mufassal members. Are all the sacrifices to be made by us for the Ministers and their friends? That is very good! Sacrifices, if any, should be made by the Ministers and their Calcutta friends and not by the mufassal members.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I hope that I am not intruding upon the prerogative of Mr. Watson-Smyth. I have followed with great interest the speeches that have been delivered for and against this motion. In the first place it has been said that we ought to make some sacrifice in the discharge of our duties. May I ask, and ask in all seriousness, if those who are advocating a change of hour from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. are doing so in a spirit of self-sacrifice? It is quite apparent from the speeches that have been delivered in support of Mr. Watson-Smyth's motion that our friends, the Calcutta merchants and lawyers, have joined together in order to fix an hour which will be most suitable to them. I have ascertained from the mufassal members their views during the lunch hour, and they are all opposed to it. They think under the present system business will be completed in a couple of days, whereas a change will entail a longer time for discussion of the business on the agenda, and the mufassal members will be compelled to spend a longer time in Calcutta and not be able to attend to their business. Another point is, as the old members are aware, that in the afternoon usually many members leave the House, and I appeal to the members on the Government side, as well as on the ministerial side, to consider the point. Many members are aware that sometimes in the afternoon there is not a sufficient number of members to count a vote. Further, it has been stated that the Muhammadan members will be put to great inconvenience in saying their prayers. Hindu members will be equally inconvenienced. I was not a little amused to listen to the speech of Mr. Bompas. This is the first time that I have the pleasure of hearing him in the reformed Council. He has said that we want the representative men to be gathered together and none to be absent. Are not the mufassal members also representative men as well? He has said that, following the traditional custom of Indian habit, the members will take their bath in the morning, their meal at mid-day, a nap in the afternoon and after being refreshed they might attend the Council at 3, as if they had nothing else to do to earn their living, and as if there were no lawyers or professional men among the mufassal members, and that they would all be contented to take meals, bath, and

nap, and attend the Council in the afternoon. If that is his experience after his 32 years' stay in Bengal, then I must say that his experience is not quite adequate to his stay in this country.

Then, it has been said that it will greatly hamper the commercial and the European members if they were to attend at 11 o'clock. May I inquire of Mr. Watson-Smyth whether he remembers that he was for some time a member of the old Legislative Council?

Mr. S. R. DAS: I rise to a point of order. Is the member entitled to speak against his own amendment?

The PRESIDENT: I cannot help if the member speaks against his own motion. It is his own look-out.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: If I am speaking against my motion, I think it will help my friend more than myself. I have already stated that I am in favour of maintaining the present hour of 11 o'clock, and that my motion is a compromise. What I want to point out is that the European members and the commercial members have for the last 50 years attended the Council from 11 o'clock and they have not grudged it and they have never approached His Excellency the Governor to change the time to 2 o'clock. If they have done their work diligently in the past and they have not felt any inconvenience, I do not quite understand why this motion emerges from Mr. Watson-Smyth.

The Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea has said that there will be enough work for the mufassal members as also for the Members of Council, because of the number of Select Committees they will have to attend from 11 to 2. Well, Sir, that shows that if all the members are willing to work during that time and will not keep away from the meetings of Select Committees, they will all come all the same at 11 o'clock. Therefore, I am afraid, as Mr. Das has pointed out, instead of supporting my amendment I was speaking against it. If members can afford to attend Select Committee meetings at 11 o'clock, surely they can afford to attend the Council at 2 o'clock. My proposal is a very modest one and I hope my amendment will be carried.

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: I do not like to speak anything at this stage in order to waste the time of the members of this Council.

Mr. R. M. WATSON-SMYTH: I will not take up the time of this Council very long in replying, as most of the points which I had intended to make have been made for me by the supporters of my resolution who have spoken since lunch.

The last question asked by my friend Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur can easily be answered. The difference is a very great one between

what used to go on in the Council in the old days and what is likely to go on in the future. In the old days, the Council meetings were not very long, except under very exceptional circumstances, such as the Rent Bill and contentious measures of that kind. And also we, merchants, had only to put up two men on the Council. Consequently, the circumstances in the old days are quite different to the circumstances at present, under which the Council will meet and meetings will be very long and protracted to any length of time, and we, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, have to put a very large number of men on the Council.

Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, as an old debater, was very clever when he made his original speech in putting in something, which was not in my original resolution and in building up a greater portion of his argument on that. Of course I should have been smart enough to see that he might do that and spike his gun before he had a chance of letting it off. As I have said, he is an old campaigner in these matters, in which I am but a child. He has said that we must rise at 6. Therefore, if we only begin at 3, we should only sit for three hours. Of course, in my resolution, there was nothing at all about what time we should rise. My resolution simply says that we should sit at 3, and the time when we should rise never entered my mind at all. As a matter of fact, we should go on till our work is finished, and consequently the idea of a three hours' sitting never crossed my mind at all.

I may tell my mufassal friends that it is not the wish of the Calcutta members to prolong the session and to multiply the days on which the Council has to sit—that is the very last thing we want. We want to get through the same amount of work in a day by commencing sittings in the afternoon as we did when we sat all day. It is my deliberate opinion that if we sit at 3 and rise at 7, if possible, four hours of continuous work will give us as much, and probably a great deal more than the four and a half or five hours' work under the old system of the old Council. For one thing, you will avoid an adjournment for lunch which has the effect of prolonging a debate more than anything else, for at the time for adjournment a motion may be just on the point of being put to the vote; and during the hour of adjournment members gather new ideas and after lunch there is a new list of speakers and the debate looks as far from ending as before.

There is another thing which the Rai Bahadur has said and I will also adopt it as my own—and that is, that in the evening members are tired. There is nothing that stops the volume of eloquence so much as the setting of the sun, and I think a member will no doubt between 6-30 to 7 put his views clearly and concisely in three minutes, which he would take 30 minutes to do at an earlier time of the day. Therefore, I think we will not detain the mufassal members longer in Calcutta by sitting at 3 o'clock in the afternoon than we will if we sit at 11 o'clock in the morning. After all, gentlemen, when we talk about sacrifices

and conveniences and things of that kind, it is really the majority that should have their way, and personally I am perfectly willing to place this resolution as it stands before you and take the vote, so that the conveniences of the majority may win.

The amendment of Babu Surendra Narayan Sinha was, by leave, withdrawn.

The amendment of Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur was put and the Council divided as follows:—

AYES.

Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Raja Narendra Lal.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.

NOES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Afzal, Khan Bahadur, Nawabzada K. M.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Mesbah Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ali, Maulvi Syed Muksood.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
Barton, Mr. H.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr. C. H.
Campbell, Mr. J.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cochran, Mr. A.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Donald, Mr. J.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Gordon, Mr. A. D.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Maitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Marr, Mr. A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Morgan, Mr. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Poddar, Babu Keshoram.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Rae, Mr. W. R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Rhodes, Mr. C. W.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. J. E.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.
Suhrawardy, Mr. Z. R. Zahid.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Watson-Smyth, Mr. R. M.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 3 and the Noes 79, the motion was lost.

Mr Watson-Smyth's original motion was then put and the Council divided as follows:—

AYES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Ahmed, Maulvi Mesbah Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ali, Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr. C. H.
Campbell, Mr. J.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman
Cochran, Mr. A.
Das, Mr S R.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Donald, Mr. J.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutt, Mr Ajoy Chunder.
Faroqui, K C. M.
Forrester, Mr. J Campbell.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Gordon, Mr. A. D.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
James, Mr R H L. Langford.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin
Khan, Mr Razaur Rahman.
Lang, Mr J
Larmour, Mr. F A.
Lees, Mr D H
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Maitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Marr, Mr. A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr P C.
Morgan, Mr. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon.
Mukherji, Professor S C.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Poddar, Babu Keshoram.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Rae, Mr. W R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Rhodes, Mr. C. W.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. J E.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.
Swan, Mr. J. A L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Watson-Smyth, Mr. R. M.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

NOES.

Afzal, Khan Bahadur, Nawabzada K. M.
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Barton, Mr. H.
Basu, Rai Bahadur Nalinaksha.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Janah, Babu Sarat Chandra
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Raja Narendra Lal.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Roy, Raja Manifoll Singh.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.

The Ayes being 74 and the Noes 36, the motion was carried

Reduction of Executive Councillors.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "This Council recommends to the Government that the Government of India and His Majesty's Government in England be moved to take such steps as may be necessary to reduce the number of Executive Councillors in Bengal to two."

The resolution which I have the honour to move runs as follows: "This Council recommends to the Government that the Government of India and His Majesty's Government in England be moved to take such steps as may be necessary to reduce the number of Executive Councillors in Bengal to two." Sir, it is in the fitness of things that this resolution has got precedence over others in this day's list of business, as I know of no other resolution which is of more vital importance to us from whatever standpoint we may look at it. It was at the special request of some of my friends this morning, that I consented to have the resolution about the time of the Council moved first. Of course I am sorry for it now. In another resolution I have been permitted to raise the question of reducing the number of Ministers also. Both the resolutions could be considered together, as both of them deal with practically the same question and the same principle and cover the same ground. I am fully alive to the fact that if these resolutions are accepted by this House and then by the Government we, the people, lose two very important and lucrative positions at the top, while the Civil Service will lose one only. We might also lose the likelihood of greater influence in the joint deliberations of Government in the relative position of 5 to 3, whereas in the proposed reconstruction the relative position would be 3 to 2. I assure my colleagues that I yield to none in my desire for achieving greater and greater indianisation of the Government machinery. But all these considerations to my mind count for nothing when we think of our imperative duty to the people whom we are proud to represent in this Council. With all the emphasis I can command I very humbly, respectfully and earnestly implore the Government to pause and consider if it is at all necessary for the best interests of good government to create this costly machinery with so top-heavy a superstructure on the very weak foundations of an all-round accepted national poverty. If my information is correct it is not for the first time that this question is raised by me to-day in this Council, but it was raised and discussed very seriously in the Council of the Secretary of State, and it was only an irony of fate that the mischief could not be mended there. But then the matter may not yet have been made final and I have reasons to believe that it has been reserved for reconsideration in the very near future. I may be permitted to notice here that all credit is due to the Government of Sir Harcourt Butler in the United Provinces for having stood the test and not having been carried away by the wave of contagion running high in the other Presidencies of the same status.

Sir, the very simple issue involved in my resolution is this: while there were only three Executive Councillors to help the Governor of this Presidency in the year 1920 in the administration of all its affairs, how is it that four Executive Councillors are appointed in the year 1921 to carry on the same administration made much less onerous than what it was in 1920 by the transfer of some very important branches of the administration to the charge of Ministers? I ought, perhaps, to make it clear at the outset that the Government of India Act itself is not responsible for this. Clause I of section 47 of that Act, which provides for the appointment of Executive Councillors, is in these terms: "The Members of a Governor's Executive Council shall be appointed by His Majesty by warrant under the Royal sign manual and shall be of such number not exceeding four, as the Secretary of State in Council directs." I do not and cannot be expected to know the history of the direction of the Secretary of State in Council, but I know this—that the Government of India Act only gives a maximum and I have often wondered how it is that the maximum is always taken as the standard in this country as for another instance the salary of the Executive Councillors.

The strength of administration has thus been increased from 4 to 8. Previous to the Reforms we had the Governor and three Members of the Executive Council, while now we have the Governor, four Members of the Executive Council and three Ministers, keeping aside the President of the Legislative Council. The reasons which led the Government to make this costly change are yet unknown and are liable to all sorts of conjectures. Has the work increased so much between 1920 and 1921 that the strength of the administration must be doubled? I confess, Sir, I do not know of any such increase. Such a sudden innovation entailing so heavy an expenditure can only be justified by a corresponding increase of work, and I think no such event has happened between the years 1920 and 1921 as would lead to doubling the amount of the previous work. The Government of India Act also as far as we can gather had not brought about so great a change—if at all—as would require doubling the strength of the administration. I would therefore submit that there is no justification for creating four posts in the Executive Council, and if I can convince my esteemed colleagues as to the correctness of my proposition I would ask them to join with me in my appeal to the Government to make the retrenchment suggested by me. Let not any sense of delicacy or any other sense intervene between them and their duty to the motherland, and I am absolutely certain if we could by one united voice demand this retrenchment it would be impossible for the Government to resist. I give below a comparative statement of the division of work among the Executive Councillors according to the system that obtained before the present Reforms and the division of work among them and the Ministers according to the present arrangements.

The arrangement before 1921, so far as my information goes, was:—

	Department	Branch
(1) H E the Governor ...	(a) Political ...	(2) Political.
	(b) General ...	(1) Ecclesiastical
	(c) Municipal ...	(3) Sanitation (excluding local bodies)
(2) The Hon'ble Mr Cumming (afterwards Sir C J Stevenson Moore)	(a) Revenue ...	The whole
	(b) Public Works ...	Do
(3) The Hon'ble Sir H. Wheeler ...	(a) Appointment ...	The whole.
	(b) Political ...	(1) Special Section.
		(3) Jails
		(4) Police
	(c) Financial ...	The whole.
(4) The Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan ...	(a) Judicial ...	The whole
	(b) General ...	(2) Education
		(3) Miscellaneous
	(c) Municipal ...	(1) Local Self-Government.
		(2) Municipal.
		(3) Sanitation (local bodies)

The present arrangement from 1921, so far as my information goes, is as follows:—

	Present Departments (after Reforms)	Previous Departments (before Reforms)
H.E. the Governor ...	No portfolio.	
(1) The Hon'ble Sir H. Wheeler ...	(a) Appointment ...	Appointment
	(b) Political ...	Political
	(c) Police ...	Do
	(d) Ecclesiastical ...	General.
	(e) European Education...	Do
(2) The Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan ...	(a) Land Revenue ...	Revenue
	(b) Land Acquisition ...	Do.
	(c) Forests ...	Do.
	(d) Irrigation ...	Public Works
	(e) Excluded areas ...	New
(3) The Hon'ble Mr. Kerr ...	(a) Finance ...	Financial
	(b) Separate Revenue ...	Do.
	(c) Commerce and Reserved Industrial subjects ...	Do.
	(d) Marine ...	Either Revenue or Public Works.
(4) The Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim	(a) Judicial ...	Judicial.
	(b) Jails ...	Political.
	(c) Emigration ...	Financial.
	(d) Immigration ...	Do.
	(e) Jurisdiction ...	New.

	Present Departments (after Reforms)	Previous Departments (before Reforms)
(1) The Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea	(a) Local Self-Government ...	Municipal
	(b) Public Health ...	Do
	(c) Medical ...	Financial
(2) The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter ...	(a) Education *minus* European Education ...	General
	(b) Registration ...	Do
(3) The Hon'ble the Nawab Sayyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri ...	(a) Agriculture ...	Revenue
	(b) Public Works ...	Public Works

I give these details subject, of course, to correction, but I believe they are approximately correct and can be relied on for the purpose of the present resolution. From the above it appears that in Bengal His Excellency the Governor is without a portfolio. This is rather unusual, and though the first Reforms Despatch of the Government of India anticipated that the Governor of a Province would have hardly any time under the Reformed Government to take up a portfolio, it will be seen that the Government of India were then under the impression that the Governor would continue to be the President of the Legislative Council under the Reformed Government. And it was on that account only that they thought that owing to the expansion of the Legislature the Governor's time will be wholly taken up by the Legislative Council. I could not do better than to quote the very words of the Despatch. In paragraph 38 of that Despatch they say: "It is clear that the sessions of the legislature will be longer, that far more time will be consumed in consultations and committees; and that it will no longer be possible for the Governor, who will be the keystone of the new Provincial system, to retain any portfolio in his own hands." And then in paragraph 86 they say: "the first proposal that the Governor should remain President of the Council is generally supported by the local Governments. Among non-officials there is some difference of opinion and some political associations favour an elected President, but for the reasons given in the report (meaning the Montagu-Chelmsford Report) we are persuaded that the Governor ought to preside." With great respect to His Excellency I submit, therefore, that I am at a loss to make out why this arrangement, I mean his not taking up any portfolio, has been made. And I am not quite sure if the same arrangement now prevails in the other provinces—I believe not. Before 1921, as will appear from the above, His Excellency had some branches of the administration in his own hands and, besides this, he was the President of the Bengal Legislative Council. Under the present arrangement His Excellency is not the President of the Legislative Council. A whole-time separate post has been created for that purpose with a salary of Rs. 3,000 a month. Consequently one is anxious to know the reason why even when relieved of the arduous duties attached to the Presidentship of the Legislative Council His Excellency does not think fit to keep

in direct touch with some important branches of administration. That is to my mind a decided loss as well to the administration as to the people. I say all this only in the public interest without meaning any sort of disrespect for His Excellency. And I am fully confident that if there were not so many members in the Executive Council with hardly sufficient work to do, His Excellency would have gladly taken over some branches of the administration into his direct control, and I think this very fact adds strength to my resolution. Then from the above table it will also appear that before 1921 there were eight broad departments:—(*a*) Political, (*b*) General, (*c*) Municipal, (*d*) Revenue, (*e*) Public Works, (*f*) Appointment, (*g*) Financial, (*h*) Judicial, and there were sub-departments under the department Political:—(*i*) Special Section, (*ii*) Political, (*iii*) Jails, (*iv*) Police, three sub-departments under the department General:—(*i*) Ecclesiastical, (*ii*) Education, (*iii*) Miscellaneous; and four sub-departments under the department Municipal:—(*i*) Local Self-Government, (*ii*) Municipal, (*iii*) Sanitation (excluding local bodies), (*iv*) Sanitation (local bodies only). Under the present arrangements these eight broad heads have been divided into as many as 24 heads and distributed among four Executive Councillors and three Ministers. An analysis of the distribution and comparison of the same with the distribution of business prior to 1921 would show that under the present arrangement:—

(*a*) Sir H. Wheeler has got Ecclesiastical (minor part of General) and some part of Political from His Excellency the Governor, and European education (minor part of General) from the Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan. On the other hand he has been relieved of the whole of Financial and Jails (minor part of Political).

(*b*) Mr. Kerr has got the whole of Financial *minus* Medical and Marine (part of Revenue) from Mr. Cumming (afterwards Sir Stevenson-Moore).

(*c*) Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan has got portions of Revenue (viz., Land Revenue, Land Acquisition and Forests) and part of Public Works (viz., Irrigation) from Mr. Cumming (afterwards Sir Stevenson-Moore), and he has got excluded areas (new) only in addition.

(*d*) Sir Abd-ur-Rahim has got the whole of Judicial from the Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan and Jails (part of Political) and Emigration and Immigration (parts of Financial) from Sir H. Wheeler; and he has got Jurisdiction (new) in addition.

(*e*) Sir Surendra Nath has got the whole of Municipal—major portion of it from the Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan and some portion of it from the Governor and he has got Medical (part of Financial) from Sir H. Wheeler.

(*f*) Mr. Mitter has got Education and Registration (part of General) from the Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan *minus* European Education which has gone to Sir H. Wheeler.

(*g*) Nawab Sahib has got Agriculture (part of Revenue) and the whole of Public Works *minus* Irrigation from Mr. Cumming (afterwards Sir Stevenson-Moore), Irrigation having gone to Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan.

It thus appears that Mr. Cumming's (afterwards Sir Stevenson-Moore's) work has practically been divided between the Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan and the Nawab Sahib. Burdwan having got the "excluded areas" in addition. And we also get from a comparison of Sir Henry's work and Mr. Kerr's work, taken together, with Sir Henry's work in the old régime, that practically the work of Sir Henry has been distributed between him and Mr. Kerr. And similarly from a comparison of the work of Sir Abd-ur-Rahim and that of Sir Surendra Nath and Mr. P. C. Mitter, all taken together, with the work of the Maharajadhiraja before 1921 we get that the work of the Maharajadhiraja has now been distributed between Sir Abd-ur-Rahim, Sir Surendra Nath and Mr. P. C. Mitter.

Therefore my conclusion is that even without disturbing His Excellency the Governor the work that is now divided between Sir Henry and Mr. Kerr can very well be done by one only, and again the work that is now divided between Sir Abd-ur-Rahim and the Maharajadhiraja can similarly be very well done by one only. If His Excellency cares to take some part of the business in his own hands, so much the better, but supposing he does not, even then, with a little redistribution the work of the Executive Council, as it at present stands after the transfer of the transferred subjects, can I think be managed by two only without either of them being overworked, and I trust the whole Council, including even my friends on the Government benches, will agree with me, for after all it is but common sense that it cannot take seven or eight persons to do the same work which used to be done by three or say four.

If then two Members of the Executive Council are a luxury, I am sorry, I as a representative of the people, cannot possibly support it. My poor province cannot afford this luxury, and I think we shall fail in our duty if we do not avail ourselves of the very first opportunity for undoing this costly arrangement.

My suggestion, therefore, would be to keep one Indian member and one Indian Civil Service member in the Executive Council. This would give us a saving of as many as 1,28,000 rupees per year. We are hearing on all sides proposals of taxation to meet the growing demands of the administration, if not immediately, possibly in the near future, as foreshadowed in the District Board Conference in the beginning of January last. I doubt not if retrenchments are made in the way suggested

in direct touch with some important branches of administration. That is to my mind a decided loss as well to the administration as to the people. I say all this only in the public interest without meaning any sort of disrespect for His Excellency. And I am fully confident that if there were not so many members in the Executive Council with hardly sufficient work to do, His Excellency would have gladly taken over some branches of the administration into his direct control, and I think this very fact adds strength to my resolution. Then from the above table it will also appear that before 1921 there were eight broad departments (*a*) Political, (*b*) General, (*c*) Municipal, (*d*) Revenue, (*e*) Public Works, (*f*) Appointment, (*g*) Financial, (*h*) Judicial, and there were sub-departments under the department Political—(*i*) Special Section (*ii*) Political, (*iii*) Jails, (*iv*) Police, three sub-departments under the department General—(*i*) Ecclesiastical, (*ii*) Education, (*iii*) Miscellaneous, and four sub-departments under the department Municipal (*i*) Local Self-Government, (*ii*) Municipal, (*iii*) Sanitation (excluding local bodies), (*iv*) Sanitation (local bodies only). Under the present arrangements these eight broad heads have been divided into as many as 24 heads and distributed among four Executive Councillors and three Ministers. An analysis of the distribution and comparison of the same with the distribution of business prior to 1921 would show that under the present arrangement—

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My suggestion, therefore, would be to keep one Indian member and one Indian Civil Service member in the Executive Council. This would give us a saving of as many as 1,28,000 rupees per year. We are hearing on all sides proposals of taxation to meet the growing demands of the administration, if not immediately, possibly in the near future, as foreshadowed in the District Board Conference in the beginning of January last. I doubt not if retrenchments are made in the way suggested

by me and in other ways we could possibly avoid any fresh taxation of my already overtaxed poor countrymen and devote the savings towards the pressing needs of the country. And in this view I appeal to His Excellency and, through him, to the Government of India and the Secretary of State in Council that this luxury ought not to be allowed to go on even for a single day. My clear proposition is this—there is no necessity for such an arrangement, therefore it cannot and must not exist to the cost of the people. I am an old member of this Council and I confess I never heard during my tenure of office since 1916 that the Members of the Executive Council were overworked.

The administration of a larger area than the present area of the Presidency of Bengal, meaning the area of the Province of Bengal in the year 1905, used to be administered by one Lieutenant-Governor with the help of six Secretaries and five Under-Secretaries or so. And now in 1921, we have the Governor, four Executive Councillors and three Ministers, the President of the Legislative Council and several Secretaries, Under-Secretaries and Registrars. If things go on in this way and you go on adding such high salaried officers now and then, I don't know what ultimately awaits my poor country. Surely, therefore, checks and limits must be put. The least possible amount ought to go towards the cost of administration. That is certainly one of the tests of a good administration. Mine is a poor country, but nowhere perhaps in the world are there such highly-paid officers as in this country. I speak again subject to correction, because I do not interest myself much in the salaries of officers elsewhere. I implore everyone of my colleagues therefore—let not our critics say with any show of reason that the Reforms were introduced with the purpose of creating some highly-paid posts with a view to pacify the leaders of discontent. If they were, I for one would say, "Take back these Reforms"—the country does not want them at so ruinous a cost. Reforms to be real must first solve the problem of bread, making adequate arrangements for vocational education, and preserving the poor masses from the ravages of malaria and the abnormally high prices of the necessaries of life.

The policy of the Government in creating four posts in the Executive Council is also open to the criticism that it has been done for the benefit of the Civil Service without caring for the heavy burden it will impose upon the public exchequer. The exponents of this view would maintain that before 1921 two of these highest appointments in the province were thrown open to the Civil Service; and to avoid the growing displeasure of the service for the introduction of the Reforms these two appointments were kept intact for them, and having regard to the recommendations of the Joint Committee two more Indians had to be added. I do not know what reply to give to this charge. If this view was correct I would say that it would be going directly against the spirit of the Reforms.

I think I have already tired out the patience of my colleagues, but I hope they will pardon me, considering the gravity of the proposal which I have ventured to bring up to them. And before I resume my seat I may mention that my resolution gets ample support from no less authorities than the Joint Select Committee of both the Houses of Parliament on the Government of India Bill, the first Reforms Despatch of the Government of India on the Reform proposals, and last but not the least in importance the Montagu-Chelmsford Report. The Joint Committee stated in their report with regard to clause 5, that "the Committee are of opinion that the normal strength of an Executive Council, especially in the smaller provinces, need not exceed two members." In paragraph 218 of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report on Constitutional Reforms it has been distinctly stated that the Provincial Executive Council is to consist of two members, one of whom will be an Indian. Then, though at first sight one might think that the Government of India in their first Reforms Despatch had recommended that there should be three members in the Executive Council, it would appear that this recommendation was based on the idea that His Excellency the Governor would not be able to take any portfolio, as his time would be taken up by the Legislative Council over which he would have to preside. Consequently when His Excellency is not the President of the Legislative Council, I would submit that even the Reforms Despatch can be taken to have recommended only two members in the Executive Council in addition to His Excellency.

And, in the last place, I may point out that the volume of work in the United Provinces, to which I have already referred, is not lighter than that of Bengal. The following comparative table will, I think, sufficiently bear me out:—

Name of Province	Number of districts.	Area in square miles	Population	Estimated revenue, 1919-20	Expenditure
				Rs	Rs
Bengal	28	78,412	45,483,077	7·30 crores	7·77 crores
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh ...	48	107,164	47,182,044	13·76 crores	11·59 crores

And the Government of India Act also gives the United Provinces the same status as to Bengal. If then the United Provinces can do with two Executive Councillors and two Ministers, there is no reason why Bengal cannot and should not do the same.

One word more and I have done. I must not be understood to have meant one single aspersion, either direct or indirect, upon the ability and public-spiritedness and patriotism of my friends over there on the Government benches. I do not for a moment believe that any one of those estimable gentlemen, all of whom are my personal friends, and

whose friendship I shall always value very highly, have entered upon their great office with any idea of personal gain. Nor do I apprehend the least opposition from any one of them if any reduction is decided upon by the Government. Many of them, I know full well, do not care in the least for the emoluments of their high office but have taken up these responsible offices only from a high sense of public duty and patriotism.

With these few words I would commend this resolution to the acceptance of the House.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: In rising to support this resolution I ought to say at the outset that I do not mean the slightest disrespect to the gentlemen who are the present Members of the Executive Council of this Government. In fact I have the highest regard for their ability and for their zeal for work; but everybody knows in this Council that the people of this country were quite taken aback when they heard that four members were going to be appointed in the Executive Council of this province. While formerly we had, during the time of the Lieutenant-Governors in the year 1909 and before that, one Lieutenant-Governor and three or four Secretaries to perform the duties of administration of this province and this province included the province of Bihar and Orissa now, we have four Executive Council Members and three Ministers, together with a Governor and the President of the Legislative Council, to perform the duties in Bengal proper and three Executive Council Members and two Ministers in Bihar and Orissa. When the partition was effected we all said men from Eastern Bengal as well as from Western Bengal that there ought to be one Governor and an Executive Council instead of two provinces under two Lieutenant-Governors. That is what we asked for. And what did we get? When the agitation over the partition in which my Hon'ble friend Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea was the central figure, was over, and the partition was unsettled and Bihar and Orissa was made a distinct province under a Governor with an Executive Council, we also had our Council Government with three members in the Executive Council two officials and one non-official. So there were five Members of the Executive Council carrying on the administration of the former province of Bengal. But with the advent of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms we find that instead of one Lieutenant-Governor and three or four Secretaries we have two Governors with 12 Executive Council Members and Ministers and a dozen Secretaries to perform the same duties. And the cost of this will have to be borne by the country. I am sure if my hon'ble friends—the Members of the Executive Council—had been in my place as popular representatives in this country or any other country—even they themselves would have come forward to denounce this present system which has brought into this Council four Members in the Executive Council in addition to the three Ministers. Is it necessary that

we should have so many administrators in the top rung of the ladder? I will quote from the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. It says: "That the normal strength of the Executive Council, especially in the smaller provinces, need not exceed two members. They would not reduce the existing statutory maximum of four. But if in any case the Council had two members with service qualifications, neither of them being Indians, then the Council should also include two Indian members." They consider that two members would be sufficient for the purpose of administering the reserved subjects in the provinces. Now in Bengal so far as I am aware so far as the public are aware the Members of the Executive Council before the Reforms were introduced never complained that they were overworked. If they had complained—if they had said that they were overworked in carrying out the administration with a by efficiency then that would no doubt have been a very good ground and just and fair ground for the Secretary of State to appoint four members in the Executive Council. But as it is we do know why these four appointments had been made.

Then we find also in the second report of the Joint Select Committee on the Government of India Act. I read from the last paragraph: "The second matter which has been brought to the Committee's notice is the desire that they should reconsider the recommendation made in their report on the Bill, that if a provincial Executive Council contains two members with service qualifications, neither of whom is by birth an Indian, it should also contain two non-official Indian members." Well, at the time when Sir John Cummine was about to retire, there was only one official Executive Council Member and that was an opportunity for Government not to fill up one appointment. Why was it not done? Of course now that these appointments have been made what is our duty? I do not say, drive away immediately the two gentlemen who have been appointed. I am not so very unreasonable as that. But what I would say is that when Sir Henry Wheeler's term of office expires next year, let the post be not filled up, and when the post of the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan falls vacant after a year, let that appointment be not filled up as well. It will be enough if we have two members in the Executive Council and not four. There will be some debate on this question, and what is the reason? The country feels that some very high posts have been created and large amounts are going to be spent on salaries. Well, I am sorry that my friend the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea is not here to fight the people's battle, but I hope he will fight this question in the cabinet. That is my request to him and my earnest solicitation.

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: The subject-matter of the resolution is one which not only vitally affects the depleted treasury of

the province, but also important from a general consideration. Only a few years ago, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa was a single province, and the administration used to be carried out by a much smaller body than at present. Then came the separation of Bihar and Orissa with its own Government. Next, with the advent of the Minto-Morley scheme, we had three Members in the Executive Council, who could smoothly manage the affairs of the province till the other day. Suddenly seven Councillors—I mean four Members and three Ministers—have been thrust upon us. True, the administrative work of the province is increasing and will increase with the gradual developments of political, social and material progress of the province, but as it is, there is absolutely no justification in the present state to increase the number to such a figure. Even the Parliamentary Joint Committee in its report says: "The normal strength of the Executive Council need not exceed two members," and certainly nothing abnormal has happened in this brief interval to justify this action of the Government. Again, a consideration and comparison of the respective portfolios of the old members with those of the new, indicate glaring inconsistencies. In the old régime one member had charge of Education and Self-Government; both of these are now transferred to two Ministers, of course with some additions in one case. The other two members have also been relieved of substantial portions of their duties, such as Registration, Agriculture, Excise, etc., and still the remaining portfolios have been distributed amongst four members. A more costly and luxurious administrative machinery is difficult to conceive. Apart from any other consideration, it is imperative from sheer economic necessity only, that retrenchments must be effected in this direction. With these few words, Mr. President, I wholeheartedly support this resolution.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: In discussing a resolution of this kind this Council is in a position of some difficulty on whichever side the sentiments of the speakers may happen to fall, whether in favour of the resolution or against it, since, as is recognised in the somewhat involved form of the resolution, the decision which is in issue is not a decision of this Council, it was not, indeed, a decision of any authority in this country. It was the outcome of the whole procedure adopted in the matter of the recent Reforms. Actually in this matter of the number of Memberships of the Executive Council the decision was of the Secretary of State in Council, but in arriving at that decision the Secretary of State, necessarily and rightly, paid heed to the various pronouncements made from time to time during the discussions of these Reforms by the authorities who had to deal with them. The procedure of those Reforms must be fresh in the minds of all, and if I touch upon its major features, it is merely to emphasize the point that I am now endeavouring to make. As all are aware, action dates from the famous pronouncement of the 20th

August 1917—a decision of His Majesty's Government. Following on that decision, Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford were deputed by that Government to make an inquiry in this country, and after taking an enormous amount of evidence and consulting as wide a range of public opinion as was accessible to them, either directly or indirectly, they submitted a report. That report, in its turn, after being subjected to criticisms was laid before the Houses of Parliament and was examined by a Joint Committee. The Joint Committee submitted its report, and the Bill subsequently made its passage through the House of Commons and House of Lords and became the law of the land. That was the procedure of the Reforms, and a matter like the present is governed by the pronouncements and findings which were arrived at in the course of that protracted discussion. It is scarcely open to us to say that we do not accept this or that part at the instance of isolated critics who did not actually take part in this lengthy inquiry, nor were even members of the bodies which came to the decisions involved.

Passing from that general point, I would like to explain to the Council more precisely how it came about that the present Executive Council of the province of Bengal has been composed of four members. In paragraph 218 of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report the suggestion was offered that an Executive Council should comprise two members—one official and one non-official. I see the mover of the resolution pricking up his ears and saying "That is all I want." There was, however, a contingent aspect of that course. Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford saw perfectly well, and recorded their opinion in paragraph 220, that when the Governor of a province was not himself an official, he would not, with a Council so constituted, be provided with adequate official advice and assistance. That point, I submit, is clear. The administrative field in this country is large and no one official, however wide his experience may be, is fully equipped in every quarter of it. Some in the course of their services have specialised in one direction, and some in another, but none can have specialised in all, and the position of one official among a total of five or six non-officials, presided over by a Governor from England, would have been practically impossible if he was expected, single-handed, adequately to present what may be called the "official" case. If the basis of the whole scheme of dyarchy is the combination in one Government of official and non-official experience, it is obvious that both elements should be represented in reasonable force. Well, Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford, seeing this, made a proposal—a tentative proposal—that there might be official Members of the Executive Council who had no portfolios. But as was specifically said in a published despatch of the Government of India, no portion of the scheme came in for more criticism than this, and it seems to me clear that outside officials, however well qualified they may be for the appointments they hold, may not necessarily be equally qualified for the position of a Member of Council which in that

event they would presumably be filling, if of the requisite seniority. Again, no official intervening spasmodically on specific invitation could advise on particular cases with the authority and responsibility of a Member of Council in constant touch with the administration and habitually acquainted with its developments. For these reasons, briefly, that proposal was discarded, and the final proposal of the Government of India was that the Membership of the Executive Council should remain as before the Reforms, namely, two officials and one non-official.

We now pass to the finding of the Joint Committee, and when I refer to the finding of the Joint Committee, it is practically the finding of Parliament, in so far as it was not modified by any pronouncement of the latter. The relevant portion of the report of the Joint Committee ran as follows: "The Committee are of opinion that the normal strength of an Executive Council in the smaller provinces need not exceed two members. They have not, however, reduced the statutory maximum of four, but if in any case the Council includes two members with service qualifications, neither of whom is by birth an Indian, they think that it should also include two non-official Indian members."

Bengal is obviously not one of the smaller provinces and I have just outlined the reasons for thinking the presence of two official members to be essential. Adding two non-official members under the above dictum of the Joint Committee, we arrive at a total of four. That was, in brief, the history of the evolution of the Council. It rests mainly on this fundamental necessity, which was accepted by the different authorities concerned, of giving an adequate official representation in the Council, with the corresponding addition of a non-official element of equal strength, and in so far as this Government is subordinate to the Government of India, and through the Government of India to His Majesty's Government, the decision is binding upon us.

But it is also a decision which, if I may say so, is defensible on its merits. The two main criticisms advanced against it are its extravagance in so far as it involves the over-weighting of the administration at the top. Now that is an argument which was definitely considered by the Joint Committee and rejected by them. That is a point of considerable importance, as the whole support of this resolution is practically based on this criticism of extravagance. The Joint Committee in their second report said: "The second matter which has been brought to the Committee's notice is the desire that they should reconsider the recommendation made in their report on the Bill, that if a Provincial Executive Council contains two members with service qualifications, neither of whom is by birth an Indian, it should also contain two non-official Indian members. The Committee have given their best consideration to the arguments upon which this request was based, but they see no reason to change their opinion. They recognise that this decision may involve a slightly greater man-power in the Government than

present statistics would strictly justify, but they have little doubt that the increase of work arising out of the new legislative bodies will be such as to render past experience a doubtful guide as to the volume of business likely to fall upon the executive, and in any case they think it of more importance that as many Indian gentlemen as possible should obtain experience inside the Government, than that the salaries of a few of them should be economised." On that argument, therefore, we have a definite finding, many aspects of which will doubtless commend themselves to the Council.

The other criticism, which has been adduced, is briefly summed up in the contention that we did not have these appointments 5, 10 or 15 years ago, why then should we have them now? Surely this savours somewhat of the attitude of a Rip Van Winkle. A man wakes up after 5, 10 or 15 years' sleep and exclaims, "These things were not when I first dozed into slumber, and why should they be now?" Surely this is to overlook all intermediate developments. When I first came out to this country in the 'nineties the administration was carried on, to speak in the most general terms, by a body of trained officials, who could devote the whole or practically the whole of their time to administrative detail, and were expected so to devote it under a system which in these days of trades unionism would probably be described as unwarrantable overtime. The proceedings of the Legislative Council occupied, in those days, comparatively little time. Under the changes of 1892 the Legislative Council was enlarged and new elements were brought in which increased the strain upon the officials but still allowed of work being carried on. That officers were unduly overworked has been established on several occasions in recent years before responsible bodies, such as the Decentralization Commission and the Public Services Commission. But now more important and more far-reaching administrative changes have come. We have now the political aspect of our work, which will loom larger and larger. It is clear that all of us will have to spend many more hours than previously in this Council. It is equally clear that we will not be able to get through the same amount of purely administrative work that was expected from officials in the old days. Then, again, there is another change which cannot be met in the way suggested by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri. Hitherto in this province the Governor has personally taken charge of a certain portion of the work. Our present Governor used to deal directly with many cases connected with rural sanitation, Political and Ecclesiastical affairs. But it would be inconsistent with the spirit of the Reforms Scheme, were he to do so in future. This means that the work has got to be done by another Member. Lastly, there is another aspect of these changes. As I have said, in the old days the administration was largely in the hands of officials. There is now a considerable non-official element in the present Executive Council. We have been singularly fortunate in having two Indian colleagues, both of

whom have been long accustomed to deal with administrative matters with promptitude and despatch—the one as a High Court Judge and the other as long connected with public affairs. But this may not always be so. A gentleman might well be admirably fitted to be a Member of the Executive Council who, for no fault of his and for no shame of his, could not dispose of files as quickly, say, as Mr. Kerr or myself, who have been doing so for the last 30 years in this country. Therefore it is quite evident that things are going to be entirely different from those to which we have hitherto been accustomed and new arrangements must govern the new situation. It is surely premature at this, the first meeting of the Reformed Council, to contend that an arrangement which is the outcome of the deliberations of so many high authorities is unsuitable and unjustifiable.

Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: I strongly support the resolution and recommend it for the acceptance of this House. My reason for pressing this resolution is that, it gives expression to a very strong volume of public opinion which has been created in its favour. This reform is being condemned by the community on the ground that it is going to create a costly administration. That is one of the foremost grounds for cursing the Reformed Legislative Council. Now, before this Council came into being the Government has increased the number of members in the Executive Council and the public had no opportunity to understand the necessity of the Governor for a cabinet of seven members, whereas he had formerly a cabinet of three members only. No doubt the introduction of the popular element into the Government to a certain extent has given rise to administrative complexities, but nevertheless we have not been satisfied that it is absolutely necessary that there should be a cabinet of seven members instead of three. Further, Sir, it is to be remembered that these Reforms have launched us into enormous cost and expenditure, and in this poor country this question of cost is one of vital importance and necessity. In this Council we should voice the opinion of the public with regard to the administration, and we are thoroughly convinced that, with the introduction of the popular element into Government, we can introduce certain reforms by way of retrenchment. So, Sir, you will be pleased to see that the resolution, which recommends for the consideration of the India Government and also for the consideration of Parliament, if necessary, that the number of members should be reduced to two, is carried unanimously by this House. This of course may not be exactly within our province, but, as representatives of the people, we have to give expression to public feeling, which is very strong in its favour, and the costly expenditure should be cut down and reduced. So, Sir, I hope that this House, without a division, will accept the resolution, which has been so ably proposed by the member in whose name it stood, and which has also been supported very ably

y another gentleman, and I hope and trust that this is a question on hich the House—at any rate non-official members—should be unanimous

Mr. H. BARTON: I have listened with much admiration to the revious speaker. In my opinion it seems that we have got to be argely guided by what we have witnessed to-day, for the proceedings f to-day are the true indication of the amount of work that is to fall the Executive Councillors They must have our fullest sympathy. growing family naturally requires larger expenditure and a growing ouncil such as this one similarly requires larger expenditure. While specting the arguments put forward by the members, I think I may be stified in saying that the points they have put forward instead of rengthening their position has tended largely to weaken it, because is more or less based on a good deal of real assumption We are not et in a position to know what the real work of this Council will be. A omparison that has been drawn by a speaker for our consideration only oints in one direction We have it stated by the member who moved e resolution that increased expenditure will be Rs 1,23,000. I say we e fortunate in having such excellent brain at so low a figure. Now e fact that previous Councillors worked with a lesser number of officials no argument against increased number It only goes to show that revious Councillors were overworked and underpaid, and with the large mount of work which must go on increasing in this Council, taking o-day's proceedings as an indication, I feel certain that before we have ot much further with our deliberations we may say we do not only ssume four but half a dozen as Executive Councillors. I therefore argue gainst this resolution.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I admire Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, the mover of this resolution, for the object with which he has oved this resolution. If it be based upon economy, certainly it is a udable one, but I am sorry to say that it will seriously affect the efficiency of the administration if the number of Councillors be reduced f the duty of a Councillor is to simply register the decrees of district fficers, then I beg to submit that there is no necessity for a Councillor even of Minister; but if it be the duty of a Councillor to supervise over he work of district officers, to go through the papers carefully and to iss necessary orders, then I submit that Government is quite justified increasing the number of Councillors from two to four. We all know e vagaries of some of the junior members of that heaven-born service I mean the Indian Civil Service); we have had sad experience of them, pecially in the mufassal, and that is the reason why we should increase e number of Councillors to have better supervision over their work. overnment have already increased the number of Members of the xecutive Council and we should not press to reduce that number. Vith those remarks I beg to oppose the resolution.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I would not have ventured to intervene in this debate or inflict a speech on this Council, at this hour of the day, but for the fact that certain remarks that have fallen from the previous speakers require a sort of challenge. I may say at once that I rise to support this resolution and I think it my duty to say a few words in order to avoid being misunderstood. Under the ordinary rules it would not have fallen to us to represent the views of the non-official members of this House before the member on behalf of Government had spoken, but to-day we are fortunate that Sir Henry Wheeler has stated before this House his case against this resolution, so that we are in this position that the best defence that could be put forward is before us, but that defence has not convinced us that this resolution ought not to be carried. I submit that there could be no defence in favour of the rejection of the resolution at all. Then it has been said that the dimensions of the Council have increased and that with a growing family there ought to be a growth in the expenditure. That may be quite a sound proposition to lay down, but under ordinary circumstances if there is a growing family, the head of the family also takes care to see that there is a growth in the income. But if the income is more or less stationary in a growing family, however well-intentioned the head of the family may be, it will be a suicidal policy to embark upon growing expenditure simply because the family has grown in dimensions, and we are at the present moment in this miserable plight that the revenues of the country have not only decreased but we are going to start with somewhat of a deficit. Now Babu Amulya Dhone Addy has just reminded us that he has been induced to oppose this resolution on the ground that it may mean the weakening of the efficiency of the administration. I say at once that I am not one of those who are induced to burn incense at the altar of efficiency in season and out of season. We have heard it said that we are to voice public opinion and not to see whether any resolution that we pass tends towards efficiency or inefficiency, because that is the duty of the executive government to look to. I think I voice the general and widespread feeling in the country that the pruning knife must be applied to various items of the expenditure both in quality and quantity, and we have come to this conclusion that whether we can carry this resolution as a combined recommendation of the Council or not, it is our duty to convey to Government through this Council the opinion, a large volume of opinion, that the time has come when the heavy administrative costliness of the country should be reduced and that if it be necessary the number of members of the executive government should be reduced also. I have heard it said that the work of the Council is likely to be such that the members of the executive government will find themselves overburdened with work and therefore the number that used to carry on the administration previously would not be sufficient to cope with the work that will go on increasing in the near future. If this remark of Sir Henry Wheeler is meant to

be a threat, I do not wish to say anything. But we rather hope that Sir Henry Wheeler's wishes to say that if we will allow him to go on and will not trouble him too much, time may come when he may consider whether the number of Members of the Executive Council are to be reduced or not.

Naturally we may think seriously whether we should not have three, as previously, instead of seven as at present. But whatever that may be I do not wish to take up the time of the Council by repeating what has been said by other speakers, and before I sit down I wish to say that I believe it is not the intention of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri nor of myself nor of anybody else who spoke in support of this resolution to propose that two of the Members of the Executive Council should forthwith resign their offices and walk out of the executive government. Our recommendation is simply an affirmation of the principle; as I have said, the pruning knife must be applied to the administration and that Government should take the earliest opportunity to give effect to his widespread public feeling that the costliness of the administration should be removed. With these few words I beg to support this resolution.

Colonel A. J. PUGH: I do not quite see that we can vote in favour of this resolution. I have listened to the various speakers who have spoken in support of it. I myself, before I came to this House and heard what Sir Henry Wheeler had got to say, was in considerable doubt as to what explanation he was going to give. Having heard what he has got to say I am perfectly convinced we must vote against this resolution. One of the speakers on this resolution has told us what should be done in carrying out this resolution. He told us that His Majesty's Government in England should take such steps as may be necessary to reduce the number of Executive Councillors. These Councillors have already been appointed. How is the mover going to remove them? We cannot remove them by discussing this resolution in this Council. We can, when the time of this Council runs out and the time comes to appoint other Councillors, decide what to do. We may remove two, but which two do you want to remove? The Act provides that the Members of the Executive Council shall not exceed four, and that one at least must be an official. Sir Henry Wheeler has explained the necessity for having two officials at present, and therefore if the numbers were reduced, the two non-official members of the executive government would have to go. I very much doubt whether that is the desire of the gentleman who has put the resolution to the Council.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I did not wish to intervene in this debate, but having heard Colonel Pugh, I rise to say a few words. Colonel Pugh, I am afraid, has taken the terms of the resolution much too literally.

I think that the object of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri's moving this resolution, is that when an opportunity occurs, or an occasion arises to alter the existing composition of the Executive Council, His Excellency the Governor, the Government of India and the Secretary of State will consider the views of this Council as expressed in this resolution. That is, I believe, the meaning of this resolution. I am afraid my friend, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, has considerably weakened his case by saying that while in olden times the guidance and control of the government of the province was exercised by one man, namely, a Lieutenant-Governor, we have now, in the place of one man, a Governor, four Members of the Executive Council and three Ministers. I am sorry that he has raised that point, because it does not lie in his mouth to say so. We, the educated people of this country, agitated and clamoured for a council form of government, and we have got it. So it is no use lamenting that we have now so many Executive Councillors, while in olden times we had only the Lieutenant-Governor. The ground upon which I attack the existing arrangement of the Executive Council is this: Take the last Executive Council. It consisted of three Members, and they were in charge of practically all the departments of Government. Now the major part of their work has been transferred to the Ministers. They are in charge of some of the most vital departments of Government. Therefore I submit that there is not work enough for four Members of the Executive Council. It has been contended that the existing arrangement had to be made because two members of administrative experience were necessary and therefore to equalise them two non-officials had to be appointed. Sir, I venture to think that the argument regarding the requirement of men of administrative experience does not carry conviction. Isn't plenty of administrative experience available from the Secretariat and permanent officials?

The other ground upon which I attack the idea of having four members in the Executive Council is this: We have now four Members and three Ministers. You will find, if you analyse, that the representatives of the people are really in a minority in the executive government of the province. It is no good denying that fact, because the four Members of the Executive Council are not responsible to the Council or to the people of Bengal; they are responsible to the Secretary of State for India. The three men who are responsible to us are in a minority.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I beg to submit a few observations on this resolution. We have listened to the history of the appointment of four Members of the Executive Council as given by Sir Henry Wheeler. We come forward before the House at the very commencement to express our fear for the appointment of four

Members of the Executive Council. We do not acquiesce in the action taken by the Government, and the proper procedure for us is to say to the Government that their action is not approved by the people. We, the representatives of the people, voice their feelings when we say that the action is not approved by them. The people of the country are not happy to find that the administration is now managed by eight persons instead of two or three, and the question naturally arises as to how they are to be paid. That is the chief point I press upon the attention of the Council and through the Council to Government. We are told that the condition of the exchequer is not encouraging and that there is a large deficit, consequently the argument that Government should not appoint so many men as Members of the Executive Council is irresistible. It is said that the work of the Councillors has become heavy on account of the Reforms, but cannot the work be done by two? Although the law clearly lays down that the number of members to be appointed should not exceed four, they could be appointed when the work grew in volume. The people really do not understand why so many men have been appointed for the administration of the country. For these reasons I recommend to this Government and to the Government of India to take necessary steps to reduce the number of members to two. It is not my intention to suggest that immediate steps should be taken to remove these persons who have been appointed as members, but simply to represent the feeling of the country in the matter.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: The reasons quoted by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri have my fullest support, but I am afraid, as Colonel Pugh said, they are more theoretical than practical. It is no good waxing eloquent on economy in matters over which you have got no control and you should confine your economy to that over which you have control. Now you will find that there are many difficulties in our way. Section 47 of the Act says the Members of a Governor's Executive Council shall be appointed by His Majesty by warrant under the Royal sign manual and shall be of such number, not exceeding four, as the Secretary of State in Council directs and not as the Governor directs. Now that he has directed that members should be four under the law that is final. Now you find about the Ministers section 52 says any Ministers so appointed shall hold office during the Governor's pleasure——

The PRESIDENT: This motion has nothing to do with the Ministers.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: The Members of the Executive Council are appointed by law for the tenure of the Council and I am afraid they cannot be removed during that period under the law. Now I must say that the number four is a great burden upon the people of Bengal and you all know how it happened.

The Montagu-Chelmsford Report said that two members would be sufficient. Then there was a great agitation in India and in England that the number should be four, since of the four members, two must be Indians and two Europeans. The Government in England gave way to the agitation and made it four. Now this is how the matter stands. But there was the opinion and those very gentlemen who clamoured for four now clamour for two, but I say the clamour for two is right and proper. But this would be in support of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri's resolution because he pointed out that the people of Bengal could not be burdened with four Executive Councillors, and therefore after the next three years it should be two. However that might be, it should never take time to reduce the number, but we must remember that after a period of three years, whatever may be the wishes of the Government in England, I am confident that the reserved subjects will become transferred subjects, and that there will be no need of Executive Councillors, at least not four, and therefore I support this resolution.

Mr. C. MORGAN: I move that the question be now put.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I rise to a point of order. I submit that a motion for closure has got to be put to the House at once.

The PRESIDENT: That is not so, please see the rules. It is a matter for the exercise of my discretion. In the present case, as the question is one of importance and there are some other speakers, I would not like to stop the discussion.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I support the motion of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, but having regard to the temper of the House and the motion which my friend Mr. Morgan has moved, I do not wish to take up the time of the Council by a speech. I therefore simply say that I support the motion of my friend, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri. I cannot, however, resist the temptation of saying one word with reference to Colonel Pugh's observation. If I have heard him aright, he said that the two Indian members would go. I do not think that that will be the decision of the powers-that-be. It will be half European and half Indian. Let the equilibrium be maintained in that way.

Sir ASHUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I did not intend to speak on this resolution, but I only want to raise a point of order. I want to know whether we are limited to the number of speakers who have sent up their names, and whether it is open to a member to speak after he has heard the speeches in Council, because after hearing the speeches, it may be necessary to answer the points raised by them. The resolution has my support; I need not detail the reasons for my support, but

his much I may say that a "growing family" has growing members to be fed, and must have larger expenditure to incur, and therefore they have a right to see how that expenditure is provided. I entirely agree with what has been said that there must be drastic reduction so far as expense is concerned. If I am not committing a breach of faith, I can tell you what was said to me by one of the members of the Government that his longest day was one of 2 hours, and the shortest not even 0 minutes. There are now reserved subjects and transferred subjects, and having regard to the present position, I do not think it necessary that there should be an increase in the Executive Council.

The PRESIDENT: In regard to the point of order that has been raised by Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri, it is within my power to regulate the order in which speeches are to be made in Council. The practice that was adopted in the old Council, and which I propose to follow for the present, is to have a list of those who want to speak prepared, and to call on each speaker in such order as I consider best; and when I have finished, if anyone else wants to speak he would not be prevented from doing so. I now call upon the mover of the resolution to reply.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I do not wish to detain the Council long, as what I have to say has been very ably said by some of the speakers already. I am not convinced by the arguments of Sir Henry Wheeler for an increase in the number of Executive Councillors. I think some of the members should find time to do some more work, especially as they have not got sufficient to do at present. Moreover, there has been an additional member now: the council business is to be managed by a whole-time officer. Further, I believe that His Excellency has now not to devote so much of his time as he used to do before, as some of the most important branches of the administration have been transferred to the Ministers. Why, therefore, there should be a necessity for appointing four Executive Councillors I am unable to understand. There was a proposal, I know, that some of the members without portfolio should form a cabinet or should be members of the cabinet, but that has been objected to and the deliberate opinion expressed by the Joint Committee and also in the Government of India Despatch, which I have quoted at length, was that ordinarily two members should be sufficient. I never proposed that the two Indian members should go out. The decision is that of the two members, if one is a Civilian the other should be an Indian; but there are four members now. Sir Abd-ur-Rahim can easily be appointed as the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court—a vacancy will very soon occur there—in which case the number can be reduced without any difficulty. With these words I appeal to my friends for support, and I hope that my resolution will be accepted for the consideration of Government.

The motion being put, a division was taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Afzal, Khan Bahadur, Nawabzada K. M.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Mesbah Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir.
Ali, Maulvi Syed Muksood.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Basu, Rai Bahadur Nalinaksha.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Chaudhuri, Sir Ashutosh.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das, Mr. S. R.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Faroqui, K. C. M.
Chose, Mr. D. C.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Janah, Babu Sarat Chandra
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon.
Mukherji, Professor S. C
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilall Singh.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.

NOES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Barton, Mr. H.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr. C. H.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
Donald, Mr. J.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Hornell, Mr W. W.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Law, Raja Reshee Case.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Marr, Mr. A.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Rae, Mr. W. R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 74 and the Noes 31, the motion was carried.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned to Tuesday, the 8th February, 1921, at 11 A.M.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council re-assembled in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 8th February, 1921, at 11 A.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Executive Members, the Hon'ble the three Ministers and 114 nominated and elected members.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): Order! Order! I think it desirable to draw the attention of the Council, at the earliest opportunity, to any irregularity that comes to my notice. I am sorry that I myself met with one yesterday; and the matter was also brought to my notice by others, that as soon as a division was called for, several members rose from their seats and assembled in front of the eastern block and began loudly to talk to each other. The noise which was created yesterday attracted my attention, and I think it necessary that I should warn you that matters like this should not take place, and that you should strictly observe the rules. I ought also to point out that it is not proper for any member to canvass for votes inside the chamber.

I now call up Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur to move the resolution which stands against his name.

Increasing Child Mortality.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: "This Council recommends to the Government that a mixed committee of official and non-official medical men and other experts be appointed to inquire into the cause of the increasing rate of child mortality in Bengal and to suggest what measures should be adopted for its prevention in the way of organising schemes for child welfare work."

After I sent notice of this resolution, I obtained certain facts and had to amend the resolution and put it before you. You were pleased to inform me that you had allowed the amendment. Under such circumstances, the amended resolution is going to be discussed on the 21st of February and I would ask your leave to withdraw this resolution.

The resolution was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Charitable Dispensaries.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: "This Council recommends to the Government that every effort should be made to have

immediately a charitable dispensary at every thana, and for the present to induce three doctors to settle and practice in the rural areas in each thana by subsidizing them to the extent of Rs. 30 a month each, half being paid by the Government and half by the District Boards."

The urgent necessity of this measure, which is after all very inadequate to the needs of the country, is known to everybody. I have consulted several Presidents, Chairmen, and members of District Boards and other local bodies, and they all approve of this resolution. I believe that the great majority of my countrymen who live in Calcutta have no idea of the distress of the people of the mufassal. I have many a time gone to the mufassal, and I know what is the fear in the minds of men, where there is no doctor. I know I have been told by a very experienced Subdivisional Officer that whenever he goes to outlying places, he trembles in fear. At the present moment, there is an epidemic of cholera at a place not more than 50 miles from Calcutta, and I have positive information that hundreds of men and women are deserted by their relatives and are left unburnt and unburied. We know that Government comes to the aid of the poor when there is an epidemic of typhoid. We know also that one case of cholera in England or in any other country in Europe would create a sensation and a panic, and millions would be spent for driving out that epidemic. But what of India, where we have got several epidemics every year? We must do something in the matter. I know that we cannot always create doctors, but the want of doctors creates a panic and a sense of helplessness in the minds of the people who die by thousands.

I appeal to the Government to look to our poor countrymen in the mufassal—to the millions who pay taxes and get nothing in return. Sanitation and education are very good, but they are for the living and not for the dead. I have been asked where is the money to come from. I have made a very small demand. I have asked for Rs. 15 for each doctor from the Government, it may be more, Rs. 20 or Rs. 25. Two thousand such doctors can be employed from the salaries proposed to be paid to the Ministers and their establishments. I think that no Minister would like to take any salary when tens of thousands of his countrymen die without any medical relief and die in utter helplessness. It was the great Asoka who first laid down—and it is inscribed on pillars of stone—that it is the first duty of Government to give medical relief to its subjects. That rule was forgotten for many a year before the English came here. But I must give them the credit that is due to them; they established hospitals and dispensaries and employed doctors. But very little has yet been done, considering the grave needs of the country. Now that we have got the subject under our control, we should not do less than what the district officers did before and who certainly did very good work. I have made a very small demand. If our Ministers, who are men of great influence, will make the necessary effort I am sure the money will be forthcoming. The District Boards will

rise to the occasion, and I further venture to say that every public-spirited man will come to the rescue. If the Government pay half, the other half will be forthcoming. I am a small zamindar and I am willing to pay for six doctors; and I know that there are many more generous and liberal-minded men than myself, who will do something to come to our rescue.

I am willing to leave out the latter portion of my resolution, namely, the following: "By subsidizing them to the extent of Rs. 30 a month each, half being paid by the Government and half by the District Board." What I desire is that every effort should be made in the name of humanity to give medical relief to the poor people of Bengal. I submit that this is a non-contentious matter, and I hope it would be carried without any division.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: Mr. President and Brother Councillors. (Cries of "Order," "Order.")

The PRESIDENT: The rule is that you should only address the chair.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I am sorry I cannot support the resolution as it stands. While I commend the spirit of the resolution, its wording is, however, such that it does not commend itself to me. Here what the mover of the resolution wants is that there must be three doctors employed in each thana, and that Government should pay half the expenses and District Boards should be made to pay the other half. We have no doubt heard a long harangue from my friend, the mover; but he does not give us one single fact or figure to show what is the population in each thana, how many thanas there are in a subdivision, how many subdivisions there are in each district. We must first know these facts and we must have these figures before we are in a position to ask the members to vote for this resolution. I should like to know from the mover himself if he himself knows how many thanas there are in the subdivision in which he lives and how many subdivisions there are in the district in which he lives. I think he will be unable to tell me all these things. Unless he answers these points, we shall not be in a position to know how we stand and what is the amount which the Government or the District Boards will have to spend. We all know very well that within the course of the year a large number of District Boards have been given the option of electing their own Chairmen and some of my friends here have already been elected as Chairmen. Is it then proper or politic on the part of the Government to force the Chairmen of District Boards and also the members of these District Boards to do something which may be against their wish? We do not know what steps have already been taken by them to improve the sanitation of their own districts; what medical relief they are imparting to their districts. Unless we know that, we cannot support this resolution. We know that of late when the Public Works cess was bodily handed over to

the District Boards, I think it brought in about 30 lakhs of rupees of additional income to the pockets of the District Boards. That is a very large amount, and I know from my own experience as a member of the District Board of the 24-Parganas that after getting this amount, we have spent a good deal of it in excavating tanks and in affording additional medical relief. That shows that the District Boards are already on the alert and they are not sitting idle. We had been trying for a long time both from the pulpit and from the press to give greater latitude to the District Boards, and we have now got that. How can you now force the District Boards to contribute half of the proposed medical expenditure? Government have not got the power but Government can only express a pious wish and that is all the Government can do. If, however, the resolution had been worded "that this Council recommends to the Government that Government may be pleased to subsidize all District Boards for affording greater medical relief," that would have no doubt commended itself to us all.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I have already modified my resolution.

The PRESIDENT: The mover should not intervene at this stage of the discussion.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: But to dictate to all these District Boards and to dictate to the Government to induce three doctors to settle in each thana, without knowing what the population of each thana is, and also by subsidizing them to the extent of Rs. 30 a month, half being paid by the District Boards and half by the Government, is something impracticable. As a matter of fact, the District Boards have already been doing so. Government can simply issue a circular that the Government will be only too glad if greater medical relief is afforded to the rural areas. This is all I have to say with regard to this resolution.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: The resolution is of such a nature that we must give a practical turn to it. The learned mover perhaps is not aware of the difficulties of the District Boards in Bengal. He considers that the District Boards will be in a position to advance a large amount of money or establish dispensaries. Perhaps he is not aware that in the areas within the jurisdiction of District Boards there are many generous people who have come forward to establish dispensaries. The other day in a neighbouring District Board we found that a gentleman came forward with a donation of Rs. 10,000. The District Board took up the matter; but the maintenance cost is about Rs. 5,000. If a dispensary is to be established within the jurisdiction of each thana, the cost would be enormous; and the mandate of the resolution is that immediate steps should be taken for the establishment of dispensaries in each thana. I say, therefore, a

practical turn should be given to the resolution. On the last occasion when influenza prevailed in the district of Hooghly, the District Board provided three or four doctors (I forget now the exact number), and we asked them to go round to provide medicines to those who were suffering from the epidemic. I may inform the Council that the attack of influenza was so great that the villagers could not find people for the purpose of cremation, and when that information was received, the Chairman of the District Board made arrangements for the purpose of getting three doctors; but even the doctors were not available at that moment. Hence, the learned mover suggests that some permanent arrangement should be made and that permanent arrangement is the establishment of dispensaries. I say, therefore, that the District Boards will not be in a position to help the people who suffer from epidemics. If the matter of affording relief be left to the hands of the District Boards, then I submit that the idea of getting hold of District Boards to afford relief would be a distant one. But I do not think that the mandate of the resolution ought to go so far. Arrangements may be made as far as possible for accepting donations from those who have the heart to help in the matter. In that way, the idea would be a practical one. I say, therefore, that I consider this resolution ought to be accepted by the Council with the observations which I have been privileged to make to-day.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I may tell the Council at once that I have every sympathy with this resolution, but I wish the resolution were one of a more practical nature. We have heard nothing from the mover as to what the total expense for each District Board or the Government will be. However willing the Minister in charge of the Department may be to accept a resolution of this character, it would be necessary for him, when the proper time comes, to demand specific grants. It would have been helpful if the mover, instead of expressing a pious hope—for the resolution is nothing better than the expression of a pious hope—had really taken the trouble to go into the matter fully and had really suggested to the House something constructive, something definite, then this House could have considered the question properly. The mover has said something about the Ministers' salaries. I suppose that is a subject which he finds very hard to avoid. He has told us nothing as to what amount he proposes to deduct from the salaries of the highly-paid Ministers and how far the savings so effected will go to meet his scheme. But I suppose I should always be indulgent to the mover about Ministers' salaries, because he can never open his mouth without touching on that point. But, Sir, there is a serious difficulty. That difficulty is well known to many of us here, namely the paucity of doctors in this province. If the mover before rushing to put forward a resolution of this character—however commendable his object may be—had looked into materials available to

him or, for the matter of that, to any man in Bengal, he would have found that there are only about 3,000 medical men in the whole province, including those who have been trained in the Campbell and Dacca Medical Schools and who are ordinarily called V.L.M.S.'s. Out of these 3,000 about 2,000 practise in the municipal areas and about 1,000 in the rural areas, so that in Bengal—we know that the population in the rural areas of Bengal is about 42½ millions—so that in Bengal we know, at any rate we ought to know, that there is only one doctor to a population of 42,500.

A great American millionaire had years ago sent out a Commission to Europe to study the system of medical education there, and from the well-written report which followed it would appear—I am speaking from memory, but I believe I am not very far out—that in Great Britain there is one doctor to a population of about 1,250 and in Italy there is one doctor to a population of about 1,700, and here in Bengal, the home of malaria, and where influenza rages every year in an epidemic form, we have only one doctor to a population of 42,500. If the mover really wanted to be helpful in the matter then he should have asked for more medical schools. I would respectfully ask the mover and others who are interested in the proper solution of this question to study this question more intimately, instead of delivering clap-trap speeches. If something definite be suggested I have no doubt that his hon'ble colleague, the Minister in charge of this Department, would do his best to get the necessary financial support, in spite of the high salaries of the Ministers.

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: Though I am in sympathy with the spirit of the resolution, I am sorry I cannot support it in its present form. Instead of establishing one charitable dispensary in each thana, the Burdwan District Board, with which I am closely connected, are attempting to establish one such dispensary within the area of two or three Union Boards. Thus there will be not less than three dispensaries in each thana.

As for inducing three doctors to settle and practise in each thana, in the first place, I fear whether an adequate number of doctors will be available. Secondly, in view of the climate and the number of dispensaries and practising doctors, it may not be necessary for one thana to have three doctors, while another may require more than three. The funds at the disposal of the District Boards may not also be commensurate with the amount required for the purpose.

In my opinion, therefore, instead of adopting a hard and fast resolution of this kind, both the questions may be left to the discretion of the District Boards, with some advice. I beg to draw the attention of the authorities to the Government of India (Education Department) resolution No. 41 of 1918.

Mr. W. R. RAE: It seems to me that we are wasting the time of the Council in discussing what is undoubtedly an impracticable proposition. I certainly think that the mover of this resolution thoroughly deserves the castigation which he has received from the Hon'ble Mr Mitter. I hope it will not become the practice of members of this Council, every time they get up to speak, to refer to the question of the Ministers' salary Now, I do not think from what I have heard from the mover that he knows anything about the subject. We are certainly all sympathetic towards the object of the resolution and I can assure the mover that the European members of this House are always sympathetic towards suffering and are willing to help when a practical proposition is made I am told there are 693 police-stations in Bengal, and, if the mover's scheme is accepted, it would mean an expenditure of fifty lakhs of rupees with a recurring expenditure of seventeen lakhs a year. I would ask the mover to take back his resolution and come back, if possible, with something practical.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I move that the question be now put

The PRESIDENT: I do not think that on this occasion I should put the question before the Government member has spoken and the mover has replied. After that is done, I will consider a motion of this nature.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): At the very outset, I desire to say that I am in complete sympathy with the aim and object of this resolution, which I understand to be an increase in the number of charitable dispensaries and the widening of the scope and extent of the area of medical relief in the rural tracts We are all in sympathy with this object but, at the same time, I feel it my duty on behalf of Government to oppose this resolution, because the resolution makes recommendations which are unsound and impracticable, and, if they are given effect to, will seriously interfere with the independence and the initiative of the local bodies which we in this Council are all so anxious to promote. The resolution divides itself into two parts. In the first place, the mover recommends the establishment of a dispensary in every thana in the mufassal; and in the second place, he suggests the employment of subsidized doctors at every thana at a monthly cost of Rs 30, of which one-half is to be paid by Government and the other half by the District Boards. I desire to point out that as regards the first of these recommendations, Government has already taken action So far back as 1917, Government addressed a circular letter to all District Boards, urging them to adopt a constructive policy so that every village might come within reach of a charitable dispensary. That appeal, I am

glad to assure hon'ble members, did not fall on heedless ears. A considerable advance has been made since then. Let me refer to the triennial report extending from 1917 to 1919. We find that the number of charitable dispensaries increased from 600 to 765 and the number at the present moment is 796. The cost of medical relief in the mufassal in the year 1919 was 2 lakhs or 13 per cent of the entire expenditure incurred under this head. In Calcutta, Government spent 24½ lakhs of rupees upon medical relief and medical institutions, that is, 72 per cent of the entire cost. To some this may seem disproportionate, but it must be borne in mind that Calcutta is the seat of our great medical institutions and some of our most important hospitals. We have here in Calcutta the Medical College, the Campbell Medical School, the Belgachia Medical School, and the Medical College Hospital is one of the biggest in the world. And I am afraid we are hardly able to cope with the demands of the Surgeon-General in this matter. That represents what the Government have done in this connection.

Let me now take up the second portion of the mover's resolution, and in this connection I may say that the House has anticipated me. The gentlemen who have spoken have sympathised with the principle of the resolution. I also sympathise with it, but the principle is nothing when detached from details, as has been observed by one of the greatest political philosophers of the 18th century. But when he came to details, the mover could not forget the salaries of the Ministers. It is on his brain. It is an infatuation. He is obsessed by it. The resolution, as several speakers have observed, is unsound and impracticable. The mover wants that every thana should have a dispensary. Now, Sir, the proposition is thoroughly unsound. The locale and limits of the thana are determined by considerations very different from those which are the governing factors in fixing the locale of a dispensary and the area of its operation. The position of the thana and its area are determined by considerations relating to the protection of life and property and the maintenance of the public tranquillity. Far different are the grounds for deciding upon the position of a dispensary and the area to be covered by it. In this case, the numerical strength of the population, the health conditions of the place, and the needs of medical relief must govern the decision. The figures which I am about to lay before the House will confirm the soundness of the view which I have ventured to put forward. There are in Bengal 688 thanas and 796 dispensaries. In other words, there are 108 dispensaries in excess of the number of thanas. Obviously, therefore, there is more than one dispensary in the area covered by some of the thanas. Will my hon'ble friend knock off the dispensaries which seem to be superfluous from his standpoint? I am sure he does not mean to do that, and if he tried it, there would be a howl of indignation from the representatives of the District Boards. I feel that, in a matter of this kind, we should not lay down any hard and fast rule. Whether a thana should have one dispensary or two or

more is a thing which must be left to be determined by the local bodies. They are on the spot and best conversant with the needs of the situation. The initiative must be theirs. We must not take it out of their hands. They know the local conditions. It is not for us or for this Council to take the matter into our hands and lay down a fiat for them that they must come to a particular decision regarding their local needs and conditions. They must be free in the performance of their duties in this matter. It is not for an autonomous Government such as we are to interfere. It would be wrong on our part. It would militate against the principles of local self-government to take away from them the initiative which they possess in this matter. I therefore oppose this part of the resolution.

Sir, there is another matter to which my friend refers, and that is that there should be three doctors in every thana. Why my friend should be so enamoured of the unlucky number 3, so inauspicious according to Oriental ideas, I do not know. Why should not there be two or four or five doctors? What are his data? What are his facts? Babu Surendra Nath Ray has asked for the facts. What are they? Has he got any statistics or figures? Has he consulted the District Boards? The Government declines to be guided by his *ipse dixit* on this matter, however clamant and capable he may be. He wants three doctors for every thana. There are 688 thanas, which means there will be Rs. 45 spent every month in respect of each thana. Multiply this into 688 and you will get an annual expenditure of Rs. 3,82,320. I am afraid the Government is not in a position to find the sum at present, and I doubt very much whether the District Boards will be able to find a like sum. Therefore, upon these grounds I object to this resolution. I hope that the resolution will be defeated in this House, which has already expressed its opinion on it that it is unsound and impracticable. I regret that a resolution of this kind should have been introduced at all. We are here for the transaction of business. Here are gentlemen who have come at the sacrifice of their time and convenience, and I think we must not indulge in discussions which are not helpful or fruitful.

The PRESIDENT: I call upon the mover to make his reply if he wishes to.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I have met with the greatest surprise of my life to-day. I have travelled through all the districts of Bengal and I know at least 50 thanas in Bengal. I have got properties in at least six thanas in Bengal. And I know the figures in every one of them and I have been told to my face—what do you know of Bengal?—by men who have never had any experience of Bengal outside the town of Calcutta. I have been told that I have given no figures and that I have no figures. I am told that I do not know that there are 688 thanas. I think I told them that it would require 2,000

doctors. Do not they know simple arithmetic and that 688 multiplied into 3 would make about 2,000? That is why I asked for 2,000 doctors in my speech. What more definite information do they require? What did I say? I said that 2,000 doctors were required for our poor people and I suggested that the Government should pay Rs. 15 a month for each doctor. And I am told point-blank that I am one who does not know Bengal and who has got no figures. There is another matter. Did I suggest for a moment that you should force it upon the District Boards? At the very outset I said that I would take out that portion in my resolution which says that half the cost should be borne by the District Boards, and what was my suggestion? I only said that an effort should be made in this direction. Even to this, objection is taken, rhetoric is employed, invective used and, as one gentleman rightly said, castigations made. I am proud of that. Nothing good was done in this country or in any country without abuse and castigation being cast upon the men who wanted to do good. How are the mighty fallen! Surendra Nath Banerjea.—Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea gets up and says—I oppose and object to this resolution. How are the mighty fallen! A representative of the community, a member of the great English nation to whom we owe so much, gets up and says. We oppose this resolution of giving relief to the poor, to the dying, to the diseased. He seems to have lost all the traditions of an Englishman. If these gentlemen go 50 miles from Calcutta they will find hundreds of persons lying dead and unburied, and they get up and tell me that I do not know Bengal. I have travelled throughout Bengal since my childhood. I know what this Council is made of. But I will do my duty so long as I am here. I again say, Sir, that it is not good to oppose this resolution. I ask the Ministers to make an effort. Money? That is of no account. Let them make the necessary effort. But the truth is that they have not got the heart to do so. That is the question and it is not a question of money. It is a question of heart. The Hon'ble Minister's heart has dried up. There is no more sweetness in it. I am very sorry that I have made a reference to the question of Ministers' salaries. I am sincerely sorry for it—I am really sorry for that little reference my poor countrymen will suffer. Before I conclude I would only say that I am sorry that I became irritated when I was told by persons who have not been outside the precincts of Calcutta and its suburbs, who do not know the suffering prevalent throughout Bengal, that I knew nothing of Bengal.

A division was then taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Afzal, Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Mesbah Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir.
Ali, Maulvi Syed Muksood.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.

Barton, Mr. H.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Rai Narendranath.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Ghoss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Faroqui, K. C. M.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Haq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammad Madassur.
Janah, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Maitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.

NOES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr C. H.
Campbell, Mr. J.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cochran, Mr. A.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Donald, Mr. J.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Ghose, Mr D. C.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Lang, Mr. J.
Lermour, Mr. F. A.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Marr, Mr. A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Rae, Mr. W. R.
Raheem, Mr. Abdur.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abdur.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Choudhury Raja Manmatha Nath.
Rhodes, Mr. C. W.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. R.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Mr. Z. R. Zahid.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The ayes being 55 and the Noes 48, the motion was carried

Date Juice.

Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED: "This Council recommends to the Government that date juice be excluded from the list of excisable articles."

I move this resolution with a trembling heart, because I know that our request to Government has been of no use, though it was made by such an eminent man as our late lamented and most esteemed countryman, Babu Kristo Das Pal. However, I gain courage by the fact that

the matter is before this Council, where almost all of us know that date juice in its unfermented condition is a pure food for us and even the European members of this Council by their long stay in this country have known that date juice in unfermented condition never intoxicates people. We, the Muhammadans in Eastern Bengal, often take date juice in the morning. Besides, if it intoxicated, we Muhammadans would have out of religious scruples objected to this. Of course date juice, when fermented, becomes *tari*, so it might be said that it has been an excisable article. In that view of the thing even rice may also be included in excisable articles, as boiled rice when kept in water for two or three days produces intoxication and becomes *pachwai*. I want to put this before the Council. I know that almost all my countrymen know that date juice in its fermented condition is called *tari*. I know that all, even our worthy President and the Ministers and the members of this Council, must have taken date juice in the morning, and it must be admitted that it is never taken as an intoxicant. So, Sir, this should not be taken as an excisable article. I find in the list of excisable articles the following are included—spirit, wine, *tari*, *pachwai*, beer, and all that. In the definition of *tari* I find that it means fermented or unfermented juice drawn from the cocoanut, date, or other kind of trees. My point is that the juice drawn from a date tree, which is better known as *khejoor rash*, is not *tari*, inasmuch as it is not an intoxicant. We are surprised to find that date juice is included in the excisable articles. Jessore, as we all know, is the best date juice producing district in Bengal. So we have had often occasion to know much of it. I beg to cite a very curious instance of the engine of oppression under this law.

A labourer was drawing out his juice in the morning and an excise officer with two constables met him and asked for a pitcher of date juice for value. The man said: "Well Sir, if you simply wish to drink, you may do so without any money, as we often don't sell it." The excise officer said: "Well, Sir, why should we drink your juice without money when we can afford to pay for it?" So this poor man was given eight or nine pice with two or three of them marked, and no sooner had he accepted the money, the excise officers called two or three men of the village and began to legally discharge his duties by searching his body. The poor man said: "There is no use for search as your money is with me: take it back." Then the excise officer arrested the man. Seeing this, the whole village resented and the naib of the Maharaja of Dighapatia asked the excise officer not to arrest. Seeing his difficult position, the excise officer went away and reported that the accused had been snatched away from him, and so the naib and his men were prosecuted under the Penal Code, and the poor tapper under the Excise Act, with the result that the naib and his men were put to jail and fined, and the tapper was also fined Rs. 25

and the whole amount of his fine was ordered to be given to the excise officer. Now, Sir, this is an incentive to the excise officers for abusing the law. This is an engine of oppression to the poor unsuspecting people in the villages. I appeal to the experience of all, even the Ministers and the members, and I also appeal to the European members to taste it once, if they have not done so, and to see if it is an intoxicant. We take it as *sarbat*, and if you put it under the head of liquor, then we are considered to be taking *haram*, as according to our Muhammadan law, liquor is *haram*. I therefore appeal that you will kindly exclude this date juice in its uninfermented condition from the list of excisable articles.

With these words I commend the motion to the acceptance of the Council.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I rise to support the resolution which has been moved by Maulvi Rafi Uddin Ahmed, who has referred to some ancient history. This matter has come up from time to time before the legislature since 1878. When the excise laws were consolidated in 1878, a motion was moved—rather an amendment was proposed to one whose name I bear, to exclude unfermented date juice from the list of excisable articles. The Hon'ble Mr. Herbert Reynolds, who was in charge of the Bill, unfortunately opposed it, and as usual the official majority predominated and the amendment was thrown out. Again in 1882 the accredited representative of the British Indian Association—the mover of the amendment in 1878—moved for the exclusion of unfermented date juice from the list of excisable articles. The same gentleman, the Hon'ble Mr. Herbert Reynolds, who was again the member in charge of the Bill, opposed it, and, as was the usual fate in those days, the amendment was rejected. In 1909 again, when I had the good fortune of getting into the Legislative Council, and when the Bengal Excise Amendment Bill came up for discussion and the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill was that genial and affable gentleman, the Hon'ble Mr. W. J. Macpherson—many of our friends might perhaps remember him—I moved a similar motion and there was a long discussion, and although to a certain extent I thought that I got the support of Sir Edward Baker, Government was opposed to it and it was thrown out. Now I am glad to see, Sir, that on the inauguration of this Reformed Council a gentleman from the mufassal has come forward with this motion, which I hope will be accepted by Government. "I hope," I say deliberately for this reason, because the Hon'ble Minister now in charge of the Excise Department was a member of the East Bengal Council, when this legislation came up almost at the same time as the Bengal Excise Bill in the West Bengal Council and moved the identical motion there, and I hope that the Hon'ble Minister, who now presides over the Excise Department in this Presidency, will see his way to exclude date juice from the category of

excisable articles, and I hope, too, Sir, now that the opinion of the country is voiced by the representatives of the people assembled in this Council, that this resolution will be accepted by Government and that the harassment to which the poor people have been subjected for the last 50 years by the underlings of the Excise Department will be put a stop to.

Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI: I must confess that I had no mind to speak on this resolution, but my friend the mover has made certain allegations which are not justified, and so far as I am aware this liquor also does some harm to the people who drink it. I think it is absolutely necessary that some sort of restriction should be imposed upon any kind of intoxicant, however mild it may be, and I think that the mover has not been able to make out a case in favour of date juice as it can be converted into an intoxicant after fermentation.

With these few words, I beg to oppose the motion.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTT: I beg to associate with my friend the learned mover in supporting this resolution. This is the first time in my life, though I belong to a district where the date tree is in abundance, that I hear that date juice is an intoxicant. Well I know this much, that after a certain amount of fermentation date juice may intoxicate and does intoxicate, but does my friend, who took the trouble of opposing the resolution really mean to suggest that unfermented date juice is identical with fermented date juice? The learned mover himself differentiated the two things. All that we want is that there should not be any restriction to the drinking, to the possession and to the sale of this unfermented date juice, and that the poor people who have had the luxury of this sweet drink or *sarbat*, which they could get from nature, should have the privilege of getting it free and without any molestation from the officers of the Excise Department. From my own personal experience I can bear out the truth of the statement which my friend has made regarding the high-handed oppression of the officers of the Excise Department. As a matter of fact I know that at least the responsible officers of the Excise Department never take any notice of the ordinary date juice and possibly, if I am correct in quoting it, under section 13 there is a provision which allows the possession of date juice in an unfermented state of a quantity not exceeding 4 seers. While 4 seers can be allowed to owners, I do not see any reason why this restriction should not be taken off at all. We, whether Hindus, Muhammadans or Christians, belong to joint families consisting of different members. The hard and fast rule of 4 seers does not really seem to be very much. One other restriction which I have noticed is this. A man can tap his own tree and obtain as much date juice as he can and can utilise the same for his own purposes, but a poor man, who lives by his manual labour, is not allowed

to sell it unless he takes out a license from the Excise Department. So the person who could have it tapped by himself or by a hired agency is certainly at liberty and welcome to obtain as much date juice as he can—it does not matter whether it is 2 or 3 maunds or 4 seers, but the poor man will have to take out a license. Now a license means a small amount of money, but everybody who has got experience of the mufassal knows what additional and illegal impositions are made on the poor people to get a license. If they do not take out licenses they are prosecuted. While the excise authorities do not take any serious notice of the owners obtaining as much date juice as they can, I think it is consistent and logical that the restriction which has been put upon the tappers to take out licenses for selling date juice should be taken away. If this restriction is removed, this will have the additional advantage of allowing the poor people to prepare *gur* in their own homes in abundant quantities, and in these days of economic distress this will no doubt prove a great boon. For these reasons, I hope, this resolution will be accepted.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): It is not possible for Government to accept the resolution in its present form. Date juice is consumed in two states—either fermented or unfermented. In both states its consumption and sale are at present controlled under the Excise Act. The necessity for controlling its sale in a fermented state is obvious. It is the primary duty of all Governments to control the sale of intoxicants. The object of Government control is in the first place to regulate the consumption of intoxicants and prevent intemperance. Fermented *tari* is a potent intoxicant, and I think every member will agree with me that its unrestricted manufacture and sale would lead to incalculable evil, especially among the labouring classes. The second object of Government control is to derive revenue from the sale of excisable articles. During the year 1919-20 fermented *tari* brought in a revenue of Rs. 5,15,000 and this is a sum which Government cannot afford to sacrifice.

With regard to fresh juice, the position is different. It is not an intoxicant, but a cool and refreshing drink. Restrictions on the sale of fresh juice were imposed not for the sake of the revenue derived from the sale of this article, which is negligible, but in order to make it easier to control the use of fermented juice. I am aware, Sir, that there has always been a strong body of public opinion in favour of the exemption of this harmless beverage from the restrictions of the Excise Act. On at least three occasions the matter was discussed in the Bengal Legislative Council, but on each occasion Government resisted the proposal to remove restrictions from the fresh juice on the ground that to do so would interfere with the control of the fermented juice. I have considered the matter carefully and have consulted the expert

adviser of Government and have come to the conclusion that the danger of interfering with the control of fermented juice is less serious than has been supposed. I am prepared to remove restrictions on fresh date juice experimentally in certain selected districts and if, after a trial, it is found that the removal of these restrictions has not seriously hampered the control of fermented juice, they will be removed throughout the rest of the province. As I have explained, it is impossible to accept the resolution as it stands, since its effect would be to remove all restrictions on *tari*. If, however, the member is prepared to amend his resolution and to recommend that Government should take action under section 90 of the Excise Act to exclude unfermented date juice from the provisions of the Act, I am prepared to accept it and give effect to it at once.

Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED: I accept the amendment proposed by the Hon'ble Minister.

The resolution was then put in the following amended form and agreed to: "This Council recommends to Government that action should be taken under section 90 of the Excise Act to exclude unfermented date juice from the provisions of the Act."

Calcutta Municipal Act.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: "This Council recommends to the Government that the amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899, be taken up by this Council without delay and that His Excellency the Governor be approached with a request that preference be given to it over all other projects of Government legislation."

The resolution speaks for itself. It is a request to Government to take up a measure of legislation which I venture to submit is long overdue. The present Calcutta Municipal Act was passed as far back as 1900, and it is a strange commentary on our advancing ideas of local self-government that for 20 years we have permitted ourselves to be governed by the same constitution in the municipal administration of the premier city of India. It is significant that none of the previous Calcutta Municipal Acts enjoyed such a prolonged lease of life. The Act of 1863 was in force for 13 years; that of 1876 for 12 years and that of 1888 for about the same period. To my mind the present Act is an anachronism and the sooner it is ended the better. That it has outlived its date cannot be questioned for a moment. The Government and the Corporation are my best authorities. In 1909 it was the Decentralization Commission which realized the inherent defects of the constitution under which the Corporation has an official Chairman at its head. That Commission, among other things, recommended the Bombay system of a non-official President side by side no doubt with an official as the head of the executive. More than a decade has passed by and still we are left with a constitution which was considered out of date

in 1909. Three years later, that is, in 1912, when the Corporation presented an address to Lord Carmichael on his assumption of the office of the first Governor of Bengal, the Commissioners expressed a hope for radical alteration in the law and constitution of the Corporation. Government were evidently impressed with the idea of amending legislation and they lost no time in publishing their tentative proposals. Public opinion was invited on those proposals which were published in July, 1913, and the Corporation offered their opinions at the end of January, 1914. The opinions that were received from the various public bodies were carefully considered by Government, and their final proposals based on such consideration were embodied in the Calcutta Municipal Bill which Government introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council in November, 1917. The Bill was subjected to a good deal of public criticism and, if I am correctly informed, a large amount of valuable materials was got ready by Government with a view to ensure the successful passage of the Bill through the Council. In July, 1918, however, Government withdrew the Bill. It is not necessary for me to recapitulate all the reasons which moved Government to adopt this course.

Suffice to say that in view of the far-reaching changes in the constitution of the Provincial Legislative Council, which were foreshadowed under the Reforms, it was thought desirable that such an important measure relating to local self-government as the amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act should be left to be dealt with by a democratic legislature under the leadership of a popular Minister. That consummation has now been achieved and I venture to think that it would be a happy augury for the future of this Council if it were to inaugurate its career with a measure for extending and liberalising the municipal constitution of the metropolis of Bengal in consonance with the demand of progressive public opinion. Remember that, if you take up the amendment of the Act now, in the normal course of events, it will not come into force before two years. That has been our experience in the past. In connection with the older Municipal Act, I may remind the Council that the Bill was introduced in April, 1886, and came into force in 1889, and the Bill out of which the present Municipal Act emerged, was introduced in Council in March, 1898, and became law in April, 1900. It follows, therefore, that unless you are prepared to tolerate the existing constitution for an indefinite period you must not lose any time in addressing yourselves seriously to this urgent measure of legislative reform. Remember also that the tenure of this Council, giving it its full allotted span of life, is only just three years, and surely it cannot be your ambition to leave this matter as a legacy to your successors. Bombay got its municipal constitution with a non-official President in the 'eighties. Even Madras has got a new Municipal Act, but here in Calcutta we have been cogitating these eight years without producing any tangible result. How long, one is tempted to ask

in despair, are we to wait here for that fuller development of municipal polity and wider recognition of popular control of which we hear so much and read so much in Government resolutions? The Councils have been given a democratic franchise and an elective majority. Is Calcutta to continue for an indefinite period yet to be dominated by a constitution in its municipal government which is the very negation of democratic franchise and elective majority? In the Councils we have got Ministers who are responsible to the legislature. But are we to tolerate in the municipal administration of Calcutta an official Chairman, above all popular control, playing the autocrat in the triple capacity of the head of the executive, Chairman of the General Committee and President of the Corporation? In pressing the Council to accept my resolution, I submit I am not pressing for undue hurry in tackling a problem of unquestioned importance and magnitude. I may remind the Council that my Hon'ble friend and leader, Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, the Minister in charge of Local Self-Government, publicly declared the other day that of the three or four measures which he would like to take up in Council, he would assign the place of honour to the amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act. That shows that our representative in the cabinet is fully responsive to public opinion in the matter and it behoves us all to show the same responsiveness to popular demand.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I rise to say a few words to clear the position as regards the attitude which I and some members of the Corporation of Calcutta would like to take regarding the proposal of our friend Mr. D. C. Ghose. In the beginning I must say that whatever I might say now should not be misunderstood. I clearly let my friends understand that I am as anxious as Mr. D. C. Ghose and the gentlemen who think in that line, in having the Calcutta Municipal Act amended as soon as possible. My close relation with the Corporation as a Commissioner for the last 18 years has taught me that the Calcutta Municipal Act is defective and is very defective in many vital points. We have been since the year 1912 trying again and again to press upon Government the desirability of giving us certain amendments, so that the administration of the Act may be more properly carried out. But what has been the result? I am sorry to say that in spite of resolutions in the Corporation, and in spite of representations made again and again, no relief has been given to us. My friend Mr. D. C. Ghose now comes before us and asks us to press Government to have the Calcutta Municipal Act amended at once. Who is there in the Corporation who would not also support him in that? But before my friend took up this attitude, did he take into consideration what the other members of the Corporation had been trying to do during the last few years? I do not like to take up the time of the Council and would at once come to the proposal of a committee

which was formed in the Corporation in 1919. This Committee, presided over by Mr. Payne (then Chairman of the Corporation), submitted an unanimous proposal before the Corporation pressing for certain urgent non-controversial amendments. The report is in my hand, and I would ask your indulgence to allow me to read the first paragraph of it: "The Committee have considered the suggestions made by the Chairman and heads of Departments and also the list of proposals which have come before the Corporation or its committees from time to time for the amendment of the Act. They recommend that the following amendments which they regard as urgent and non-controversial should be undertaken as early as possible without waiting for the proposed changes in the constitution of the Corporation."

This report is signed, headed by Mr Payne, then comes Mr. Bompas, Sir Kailash Chandra Bose, the late lamented Rai Debendra Chandra Ghose Bahadur, father of the mover of the resolution, myself, Mr Akram Hussain, Colonel Pugh, Mr A. C. Banerji, Mr James Wyness, Mr. Ramtaran Banarji and Mr Morgan The Corporation adopted their proposals, and those proposals were sent to Government with a request for urgent action in preference to the constitutional modification of the Act What has been done since March, 1919? I do not know where the papers are Only the other day, when I happened to be in the room of the Hon'ble Minister, I was surprised to find that the Minister had not the papers by him. He might have got them later on, but, whatever that might be, the Minister is not responsible (but his predecessor certainly is) for not giving that attention to the proposals of the Corporation which they deserved and for which the Corporation had been again and again pressing before Government Mr Payne and his successor, Mr Donald, have assured us again and again that these proposals would receive the best attention of Government, but in spite of committees, in spite of the Corporation, in spite of the support of Chairman after Chairman, nothing has been done Those urgent non-controversial resolutions are still before Government for consideration. Now that my friend the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea is in charge of it, would it be improper for us to expect that more sympathetic consideration will be given to our reasonable demands from the Corporation? I would ask my friend Mr. D. C. Ghose to remember that these amendments are much more important than many parts of the Act. Some of them are so urgent that no legislature in the world can ignore them. Take, for example, the food question in Calcutta. I am ashamed to say that even to-day adulterated mustard-oil is sold in the city of Calcutta. If you fix a board over the door saying that mixed oil is sold there you can defy the whole body of health officers under the Calcutta Corporation. Is it not necessary that this state of things should be stamped out without a day's delay?

My friends know that only three years ago Mr. Payne, while Chairman of the Corporation, tried his level best in conjunction with some

of us to formulate a scheme for the establishment of a dairy farm in Calcutta. A scheme was drawn up, some experts were consulted, and a large sum of money was spent by the Corporation, land was selected for the purpose, but nothing could be done because the lawyers pointed out that the Corporation had not the legal authority to do it. The Corporation at once asked for that legal authority and I ask my friend Mr. D. C. Ghose to say if the constitutional amendments are more important than the supply of pure milk for our children. Certainly it is more important that the sale of unadulterated food articles and supply of pure milk should be ensured than the immediate amendment of the constitutional part of the Act. I again say that it is a disgrace that people in Calcutta can sell adulterated food for the purpose of human consumption without any control over them by simply hanging a board stating that they are selling adulterated articles. The present Chairman of the Corporation, whom I find sitting there, will be able to tell you that you will find such boards wherever mixed articles of food are sold. Lawyers advise us that unless proper legal authority is given to the Corporation to prosecute the dealers of any adulterated food we cannot put a stop to such state of things. Along with these important items there are other things which also stand in the way of the smooth administration of the Act. I find that under the present Act a ridiculous situation has arisen. You will be surprised to hear that at present motor lorries are taxed under sections 208 and 209 of the Act Rs. 4 per half year the same as bullock carts. Is it not ridiculous that motor lorries plying in the streets of Calcutta should pay Rs. 8 a year? How long are we going to tolerate it? This was one of the subjects of reference.

The PRESIDENT: I do not think that these details to which the gentleman refers have anything to do with the general question raised by Mr. D. C. Ghose.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I only referred to them because they appear in connection with the report of the special committee.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Order! You cannot discuss my ruling.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: The only point for me to urge now is this. My friend Mr. D. C. Ghose, who has asked for an amendment of the whole Act, suggests that it will take two years to do so. I have also come to the same conclusion. The Bill of 1889 was placed before the Council in 1886 and the Bill of 1900 was introduced in 1898 and became law in two years. The Calcutta Municipal Bill was placed in November, 1917, before the Council and withdrawn in July, 1919. So I take it ordinarily it takes two years for a Bill either to be passed or withdrawn. I want to impress upon my friends here that if

accept Mr. D. C. Ghose's proposal, the inevitable consequence of that uld be that we will have to wait for two years before the urgent sug-stions of the Corporation can be attended to. Instead of that, the ne proper course for us would be to ask for the urgent amendments at ce and then go for the Calcutta Municipal Act. That was the point was anxious to draw attention to. I intended to move an amendment this resolution, but I find that I am not in order because I did not ve notice of it. I want to point out that if we accept this resolution, en our desire to have the urgent amendments would not be fulfilled.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I rise to support the resolu-on that has been moved by Mr. D. C. Ghose, and in doing so will just fer to the observations that have been made by my esteemed friend, ai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur. He apprehends that if this resolu-on is accepted by the House, the emergency legislation which has en recommended by the Calcutta Corporation will be indefinitely stponed. I do not think that he need have any apprehension on this ind. The resolution recommends that the Calcutta Municipal Act of 99 be taken up for amendment at an early date. It may be taken up a whole, or it may be taken up in part, and therefore I do not think at the acceptance of this resolution will preclude Government from dertaking the emergency legislation recommended by the Corpora-on. Now, with reference to that piece of legislation, I may say that ai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur has very properly referred to some omalies of the existing law, which require immediate amendment, d it is not likely there will be any differences of opinion about the endment of the sections regarding adulteration of food, milk-supply otor lorries and other things, but I am not quite sure. I had a brief ance at the big list of amendments—whether there are not some tters in the list of amendments proposed which are of a controversial ture. While I may say I also demand equally that such non-contro-rsial amendments as those referred to by Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt dhadur should be taken up at once, I will oppose with all the emphasis at I can command any controversial item that may be brought in ong with these amendments, because I remember certain attempts ve been made in the Corporation to insert controversial items. We nnot always see eye to eye with the executive, and therefore I think at controversial matters should be deferred till we take up the endment of the whole Act. It is a happy augury for the future of e Calcutta Corporation that the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, o has fought for nearly 50 years for the expansion of local self-vernment, is in charge of the Local Self-Government Department. e Calcutta Corporation was the cradle of his political life, and no one more conversant with the feelings of the people of the city in regard the present constitution, and their demands for genuine local self-overnment. Mr. D. C. Ghose has laid particular stress upon the Bombay

constitution. But it is not the mere glamour of the Corporation Presidential chair that will satisfy the citizens of Calcutta. What they want is that the Corporation should be the supreme authority, and the head of the executive should be subordinate to the Corporation and should not have any power to interfere by pulling strings from behind. In the Bill originally introduced this principle was not recognised. The Bill should be recast and every section should be carefully examined and real and genuine power of self-government bestowed on the people of Calcutta. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will take this fact into consideration when the Bill is brought up before the Council. I think it is high time that this measure should be laid before the Council, as considerable delay has already occurred. We know very well that when the Act of 1862 was passed the Corporation were supreme under that Act and were referred to as the Justices of the Peace from the first section to the last, and nowhere was the Chairman of the Justices mentioned. In 1876, when the Act was remodelled, the words "Justices of the Peace" were dropped and the word "Commissioners" substituted. Then, in 1888, when the Act was again amended, the word "Commissioners" occurred, and then to our misfortune—I do not want to go into details—in the year 1899, forgetful of all our past history, the present constitution under which the Corporation was made only one among three co-ordinate authorities and an official Chairman dominating the whole organisation was introduced. It violates every fundamental principle of local self-government. We have had it now for 20 years and I hope, Sir, that no time will be lost to recast the present Act, and to liberalise the constitution of the Corporation.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I should like to state before the House what the intentions of Government are regarding the resolution which has been moved by Mr. Ghose. I may be permitted to congratulate my friend on the lucid speech with which he moved his resolution. I quite agree with him in thinking that an amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act is overdue. As my friend has pointed out, there had been amendments of the Act, but that was 21 years ago; the last amendment took place in 1900, and we all know the storm of opposition which it called forth at that time. I myself was a member of the Corporation at the time and I was one of the protestors, I was one of the 28 who resigned their seats in the Corporation—almost all are now dead, except Mr. B. N. Basu and Mr. Kali Nath Mitter. We were then non-co-operationists. Experience has shown that non-co-operation is not always an efficient instrument of political warfare, and we then came to the conclusion that it is only by co-operation that we can work out our destiny. That has been the conviction that has been forced on our minds. I am sure the principle of non-co-operation is at a discount. By our act of non-co-operation——

The PRESIDENT: Order! Order! I am sorry to interrupt the Hon'ble Member. We are not discussing the question of non-co-operation at present.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I bow to your decision. I desire to say this: the amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act is overdue, and, that being so, we are prepared to accept the first part of my friend's resolution, viz., that early steps be taken with a view to introduce an amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act. So far as Government are concerned, we are not prepared to accept the latter part of the resolution, viz., that preference should be given to this amendment over all other projects of Government legislation. There is an emergency Bill which has been presented to Government by the Corporation. That emergency Bill is before us. I have been considering that Bill. It was recommended on the ground that it was a non-controversial piece of legislation. I have discussed the matter with persons interested in this question, and we have come to the conclusion that it is highly controversial. That being so, the sole ground upon which preference was to be given to the Bill disappears, and if all controversial points were eliminated, very little of the Bill would be left.

We are prepared on behalf of Government to accept the first part of my friend's resolution, viz., that early steps be taken to introduce an amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act, but we cannot give it preference over all other projects of law. If my friend agrees to move his resolution on these lines, Government are prepared to accept it.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to know if the mover of the resolution is prepared to accept the suggestion made by the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: Having regard to the very sympathetic utterance that has fallen from my friend Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, I am quite willing to split up my resolution into two parts and withdraw the latter.

The PRESIDENT: You want to omit the last few words of your resolution?

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: With the leave of the Council I will withdraw the latter part of the resolution, which is this: "And that His Excellency the Governor be approached with a request that preference be given to it over all other projects of Government legislation."

The resolution was, by leave of the President, put in the following amended form:—"This Council recommends that early steps be taken for the amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899."

The PRESIDENT: Does anyone wish to speak on the motion in its amended form?

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MAITRA: I wished to oppose the original resolution, but as the latter part has been withdrawn, I shall not speak any further.

Colonel A. J. PUGH: I move that the question be now put.

The resolution was then put in its amended form and agreed to.

The Council then adjourned for lunch.

The Council reassembled after lunch, the Hon'ble the President in the chair.

Allowances, etc., of Council Members.

Babu NIRODE BEHARY MULLICK: "This Council recommends to the Government that an ordinary member of the Bengal Legislative Council should draw a monthly allowance of Rs. 250 *plus* free first class railway passes and postage throughout the Province."

I am in the somewhat embarrassing position, which has been described by the author of *Hitopadesh*, thus: [Here the speaker quoted a Sanskrit stanza, the meaning of which is "Do not undertake anything, the fruits of which, if successful, are reaped equally by all, but which, if unsuccessful, brings ridicule to you only"] But I have ventured to bring it before the House in the belief that with the growth of Parliamentary, or representative, or democratic institutions the question was bound to arise, as in other countries, and if it is good and desirable the sooner it arises, the better.

The subject being somewhat of a novel nature in India, although not so in other countries where Parliamentary institutions are a thing not of to-day or of yesterday, it may strike you as somewhat awkward. So in order to remove this unnecessary awkwardness let me quote certain figures of other countries. Take first of all the case of England or the Mother of Parliaments. Here, as is well known, each one of about 700 members gets about £400 per annum. In Canada the same arrangement is found for 234 members. In the United States each member gets about Rs. 1,875 per month, besides travelling allowance. In France each one of the 924 members of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies gets about Rs. 750 per month *plus* travelling allowance. I have taken the examples of some of the well known self-governing countries at random, and, on a study of the above-quoted facts, one thing obvious is that each country, particularly sensible as it is of retrenchment or economy, does not countenance ugly economy.

As regards the latter part of the resolution, namely, the grant of a first class pass and free postage throughout Bengal, it practically touches nobody's pocket, although it is a splendid advantage to a member to know each and every corner of Bengal as it helps him in the discharge of his duties.

In the second place a member of the former Minto-Morley Council of Bengal told me that under the present system every regular mufas-

al member gets about Rs. 150 per month on an average. If, together ith this fact, we remember that under the Reforms Scheme meetings f the Council will be more frequent, then perhaps it will not be wide f the mark to say that each regular mufassal member can expect bout Rs. 200 per month. Consequently, it is apparent that from this um of Rs. 250 per month is not a very big jump. From this point of iew, all that the resolution aims at is to do away with the unnecessary rangement to have the Bills countersigned by the Secretary and all hat sort of circumlocution. Moreover, the present system of allowances was fixed in 1909, that is about 11 years back. The rise of prices, *i.e.*, the dearness of living in Calcutta since then, is a factor not nknown to any member of this Council.

In the third place, it may be said that even if nothing is paid in the hape of allowances, there will be no want of self-sacrificing men to erve the Council, *i.e.*, the country. To me that is an irrelevant argument. If such an argument is really advanced, I would say that there ould be many who would be quite willing to pay a good deal of money o be members of this Council. Why not then fill the coffers of Government by putting membership up to the highest bidder?

Lastly, let us not in season and out of season clamour for economy s is done by the third class editors and sub-editors of Calcutta, when hey find that they have nothing to fill their columns with. Believe ie, Mr President, when I say that you will scarcely find a person more nxious for economy and retrenchment than I am But I am never or ugly and meaningless economy, which is a source of weakness ather than of strength to the real prosperity and a peaceful administraion of the country. With these few words, I commend the resolution to the consideration of the House.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I regret that an elected ember of the Council has thought fit to move such a resolution lowever, after all that has been said on this resolution, I not only eel unconvinced, but am as opposed to it as ever. I confess that have not been able to gather what else can be the object of it if it is ot to impose, though indirectly, a fine on the overburdened taxayers and our electors for their simple fault of electing us as their epresentatives to the Council. And it is not a small fine indeed; but n annual fine of a few lakhs of rupees. As I do not wish to punish ny electors and countrymen, I frankly say I cannot see my way to upport this resolution. I really wonder, Sir, what are we coming to ith the inauguration of the Reforms. We have been hearing of nothing lse but of salaries, emoluments, offices with maximum salary; and ost though not the least of allowances for popular representatives. Is Bengal so denuded of public spirit that with the advent of the Reforms nothing but a monetary inducement appeals to us? Have the Reforms

really so much deformed us? If our predecessors—I mean the members of the former Councils under the Minto-Morley Act—did not require any remuneration, I don't understand why should we require any. I do appreciate the requirements of the mufassal members; but the existing arrangement to pay for their travelling and halting allowances is, I think, quite sufficient. I see, therefore, neither any necessity nor propriety for such a resolution. On the contrary, I am afraid that if this resolution is carried, it will stand to our everlasting discredit and we shall for all time to come be accused of petty self-seeking. With these remarks, I beg to oppose this resolution.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I wish to make just only one observation. I find that the mover of the resolution is somewhat inconsistent, because in another sheet, he has moved a resolution to the effect that the Ministers' salaries be reduced to the figure of Rs. 3,500 a month on the question of retrenchment; and for the same member to move that this House should pass a resolution to the effect that each member of the Council should be paid Rs. 250 a month as allowance, does not seem to me to be quite consistent. But apart from consistency or inconsistency, the whole question seems to me to be rather premature at this stage. It is a question of ways and means. We should like to have comparative figures before us. We have absolutely no idea of what the present travelling allowance system, including double first class fare, mileage and halting charges, costs the Government. We should like to have another statement showing what the present proposal is going to cost. If a comparative statement be prepared and it can be shown that in the long run what the resolution proposes will cost less, then of course this House will be in a position to come to a reasonable conclusion in the matter.

Dr. H. SUHRAWARDY: I do not wish to take up the time of this Council by repeating what Professor Mukherji has just now told us. I am entirely in agreement with him that it is premature at the present moment to saddle the country with any further expenditure, without going into details from the point of consistency or inconsistency on the part of the mover himself as the person who has introduced a resolution to reduce the pay of the Ministers. When the country develops we shall be in a position to judge whether the elected members from the mufassal ought to have some remuneration. I am myself a mufassal man, but consider that at the present moment, the privilege of representing the people and of doing honorary work ought to be quite sufficient for us. I request the hon'ble mover to reconsider the matter.

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): The present resolution introduces a new principle, and it therefore behoves the Council to scrutinise

t with some circumspection. Our old system was to endeavour to nsure that members attending the Council from outside Calcutta ere not, during the Council session, actually losers pecuniarily y reason of their doing so. In order to attain that end, members ere paid travelling allowance at the ordinary first class rates, nd for the period of their stay in Calcutta they were given what is nown as a residential allowance of Rs. 10 a day. Gentlemen, who ved in Calcutta, I admit, were expected to serve from altruistic motives l public spirit. But we did try and, I think, succeeded, on the whole, ensuring that the outside members were not out of pocket. The rinciple underlying that procedure was, I think, sound. The sittings f the old Council were not unduly protracted, and neither do we yet now that they will be excessively protracted under the new system. ndoubtedly, the sessions will be longer, but we have yet to see how ong they will be, and it is probably a rough forecast to imagine that e may sit for something like three or four months in the cold weather d possibly a month or so in the rains. I do not wish to prophesy, d events will show whether this is correct or not. But in any case, is not likely for some time, at any rate, that we shall have protracted ttings such as are characteristic, for instance, of the House of Commons in England. We have therefore now a system which worked asonably well in the past, and which, so far as we can see at any rate, ll be, for some time to come, fair and reasonable. Even moufassal embers will not be kept so long in Calcutta as to prevent their comming their duties in Council with their other avocations.

The payment of members, of course, as the mover has said, has rious precedents in democratic countries, though I would remind the uncil that in England it is a precedent of fairly recent date, and it a precedent which was largely created by the presence of a large mber of labour members in the House of Commons. So far the condi- ns of this country do not approximate to those of England in this spect, and I submit, therefore, as has been urged by previous speakers, at we would be wise to wait and see what the future course of the uncil is going to be. In order words, as Professor Mukherji has said, e present resolution is premature. To enforce it now will, so far as n be foreseen at present, mean that members will receive monthly muneration for a large portion of the year during which they will t actually do any work in Council. So much, Sir, for the general inciple.

As regards the details, the proposals as regards free railway passes d free postage seem to be particularly open to objection. In the st place, it must be remembered that if this proposal were accepted, would definitely mean that the provincial revenues would be directly t of pocket. Both Railways and Postage are Imperial sources of venue, and for any concessions that we make to our members in these

respects, we shall have to reimburse the Railway and Postal Departments. We shall have to supply our members with service stamps and books of requisitions for railway accommodation. It is a system which, with the best of intentions, will not be easily enforceable with strict economy. Neither can I see any reason why members of Council should be enabled to travel all over the province, and even to the hill stations, at the public expense.

Professor Mukherji has asked if we have got figures showing what the present cost is and what it is likely to be if we adopted this resolution; and we have fortunately worked out some details. Our expenditure in 1918-19 and 1919-20—the two latest years before the conjunction of the two systems took place in the current year—on travelling allowance and residential allowance to members was Rs. 12,295 and Rs. 12,133, respectively. Continuing the old system as applied to the larger memberships of the present Council, we propose to budget Rs. 43,000 under these two heads next year. So, even under the old system, we are going to be let in for an increase, as, of course, was inevitable with the numerical expansion of the Council. If we were to adopt the system proposed in the resolution, and taking 113 elected members and six nominated non-official members—I presume the officials will be left out—the expenditure at the rate of Rs. 3,000 for each member on this account would amount to Rs. 3,57,000. That would be exclusive of travelling allowance, and obviously means a large increase. The argument of economy is one which the Council will do well to weigh, because, quite apart from these matters of travelling and residential allowances, this new Council is going to cost a good deal more than the old Council. Thus, again taking the years 1918-19 and 1919-20, on various items such as postage stamps, telegraphic charges, books and publications, rents, rates and taxes and office expenses, we spent Rs. 11,259 and Rs. 10,839, respectively; but our budget under the same head for the enlarged Council—it is to be remembered that we have to pay rent for the Town Hall—will work out to Rs. 42,000, and these are inevitable items of expenditure. This being so, I think the majority of the Council will agree with me that it will be unwise to incur a further expenditure which cannot be shown to be absolutely necessary or fully justified.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I do not know what the temper of the House is; but I have no hesitation in saying that it is a matter of surprise to me that public-spirited gentlemen who have come to the Council for the purpose of serving the country can ask the Government to contribute something as their allowance. The mover will remember that in this country there are Municipal Commissioners, Honorary Magistrates, Municipal Chairmen, Members of the District Boards and non-official Chairmen of District Boards who do not charge a single pice from the funds of the local body. Where

, therefore, the necessity of asking the Council to pass a resolution favour of payment of an allowance? Self-sacrifice is the order of the ay, and in this Council we are very anxious and strongly desirous seeing that economy is practised. Are we not departing from that nciple? I would ask therefore the mover to seriously consider this atter. In my own humble opinion, it will be to his own discredit and the discredit of all those who are sitting in this House There are any men who come from the mufassal and who are coming from a eat distance and they have all their own professional work and other ocations.

Babu NIRODE BEHARY MULLICK: I accept the view that my solution is premature, and beg leave to withdraw it

The resolution was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Darjeeling Exodus.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: "This Council recommends the Government that the annual exodus of the Government to Darjeeg be discontinued from the next official year and that no provision made for it in next year's budget."

In moving this resolution, I need hardly say that it is a very simple e and one which, to my mind, does not admit of much controversy. is matter had been for a very very long time before the press and e platform; and the whole of it has been thoroughly discussed, and am free to tell you that all that I need say about this is nothing but mmon knowledge. This matter also received attention in various eetings of Councils, both Imperial and Provincial, but the sum and bstance of all that has been a pious and an earnest prayer and nothing ore than that. The authorities were asked to give up the habit of e exodus—I stick to the word "habit"—but they have never paid y heed to this; and in this demand it was not the Indians alone who gured, but it was also the non-official members and Europeans as a dy who did figure. I can assure you, Sir, that so far as the Indian nion is concerned, it is absolutely unanimous in its opinion against e habit of exodus. There is not one man in this country who does t believe that this exodus is merely a waste of money and a luxury dulged in by those persons in whose power it lies. So far as Euroan non-official members are concerned, the earliest record, on which have been able to lay my hand, is one about a meeting held in this storic hall, before it was mutilated like this, in the year 1886 was in school then. I went to hear our great Surendra Nath anerjea speak in that meeting. I was in the habit of attending meetgs when I was very young. That meeting was held in 1886. You ill remember the year, gentlemen. It was held shortly after the

most unfortunate agitation in connection with the Ilbert Bill. But still the two communities forgot their differences; the European and Indian communities laid aside all the bitterness of feeling that had come between them on account of the unfortunate controversy over the Ilbert Bill and what did they do? They joined on a common platform here for a common cause to oppose this matter of the exodus to the hills. It was not an agitation, if agitation it could be called, engineered by Indians. No, not at all. The whole of that movement was engineered by the non-official European element in the country. It was a meeting called by the Sheriff of Calcutta—a great name—George Yule, a respected name amongst the Indians. That was the meeting, and the resolution was drafted not by an Indian but by a European gentleman who held a leading position in the Chamber of Commerce in those days, and he was Mr. Clarke. I have the resolution with me. Nothing could be more thorough than that resolution. It gave 10 or 11 different reasons why this exodus should be abolished. And it was drafted, as I have already said, by a non-official European—a merchant prince. Then, again, who moved the resolution? The resolution was moved, I again say, on behalf of the non-official European community by Sir Alexander Wilson, also a merchant prince of those days. And I will now tell you who presided over that meeting. To the best of my recollection, the meeting was presided by the late Hon'ble Mr. Pugh, a leading member of the Calcutta Bar, a man whose name many of us remember here and who used to command the spontaneous respect of both the Indian and European communities. Mr. Clarke drafted the resolution, Sir Alexander Wilson proposed it on behalf of the European community and, who do you think seconded on behalf of the Indian community? No less a person than Surendra Nath Banerjea, than whom there was nobody who had a better claim to represent his countrymen at that meeting. I have got his speech in my hands and if I were to say one-tenth of what was said by him at that meeting I would make one of the most brilliant and splendid speeches that have ever been made. But I remember the suggestion of the Hon'ble President to condense our speeches as much as we can, and I am going to follow his advice and not to quote from the splendid speech at length, but will content myself by going into the merits of the question itself.

Now as regards the merits of the question. What is the basic idea underlying this exodus? It is easy to see and it is well known. It is the supposed unsuitability of the climate of Calcutta for Europeans—nothing more, nothing less. There is no other reason to justify it and I would ask—I might even use the word "challenge"—any European official or non-official to say whether there is any reason other than that at all. That was the reason which that great monster meeting of all the people of Calcutta protested against. That was the reason and nothing more. I would say now that in the opinion of the responsible non-official European gentlemen themselves of those days that people

had an exaggerated notion of the unsuitability of the Indian climate. Men like Sir Alexander Wilson, men like the late Mr. Pugh and Mr. Yule, thought that it was an exaggerated notion. And it was so thought in 1886—35 years ago—when many of us here were quite young, when some of us here were even unborn; at that time it was considered to be an exaggerated notion. In the opinion of my leader in those days it was also so. And I cannot do better than quote the last four lines of his speech. I hope he remembers them, and I also hope that he will help us here in this matter too. These are his words:—"The time is indeed fast approaching when these yearly migrations will soon have become a thing of the past and the future generations will wonder that it was possible for the rulers of a great country in full possession of their senses"—mark the words—"in full possession of their senses"—"to dream of governing a vast empire away from the scenes of popular opinion, intelligence and wealth." That was said 35 years ago and the prophecy that was then made, the hope that was then cherished by our leaders was that the time was fast approaching. Thirty-five years have since passed by and we are still where we are. That has been possible—why?—because the Government of the country was selfish. They cared for nothing else than their own comforts and convenience, and they did not want to deny themselves anything. Well, Sir, if that was the state of things 35 years ago, if it was thought 35 years ago that the unhealthiness of the climate of Calcutta was exaggerated, what would these gentlemen say after 35 years of the municipal administration—albeit the much-maligned municipal administration—of Calcutta and not to say of the recent good work done by the much-dreaded Improvement Trust? Who would deny at the present day that Calcutta is a sanitarium? Can anybody say that there is a better and healthier place in India than Calcutta at all seasons of the year? Can anybody deny that it is absolutely at its best during the rains? What reason is there for going away to the hills? There is absolutely none. Over and above that, look at the other things. We see on all sides that the amenities of existence have advanced. In 1886 when the meeting was held—mark, the date was the 14th of July—in this very historic hall, there was no fan at all. What an awful day it must have been, when in the beginning of February we have the electric fans running here to cool our heads. Look at the other amenities of existence which have grown since. There is plenty of ice now and it is cheap too. We have got rid of the *punkah* coolies and you have no more his ways to try your temper. You have got the fans by day and by night. You have got motor cars which have shortened distances, and minimised exposure to the sun to and from your offices, and last—though not the least—you have got your typewriters. You have now got your office files before you quite clean and legible. Everything is placed before you in a comfortable way to help your work and you still try to find out reasons for going away to

Darjeeling. There are other ways of looking at it; there are some other reasons such as comparison with others similarly circumstanced, which I could have told the House, but which I would not say now as they might be unpleasant. But if there is opposition which impels me to refer to them, I shall have to do it in my reply, though with a certain amount of regret. I can cite to you various instances of that description which perhaps will bring this thing home to you. But I would not take them up now and will not bring them up either, unless I am forced to do so

If you, gentlemen, consider that the exodus is not required in the interest of public service or for efficiency—that blessed word which has come into vogue since Lord Curzon's time; if you think that this money ought to be saved and could be saved, if you think that it should go to the tax-payer and not to the tax-gatherer, then the time has come to say that we shall have nothing to do with the hill exodus any longer. In the past, we could only move pious resolutions and express eager hopes But now that we have got some semblance of power in our own hands, we shall say that we do not want to waste so much money when half the population in Bengal live on one meal a day.

One word more. I would ask everybody to consider the question not in a party spirit. It is not a party question at all. It is a matter which we should look at from a broad point of view—from the point of view of efficiency as well as of economy—which is so much needed in the administration of the province. With these words, I move my resolution.

Dr. H. SUHRAWARDY: This resolution is said to be based on economic grounds, as the mover has said. Well, Sir, if it is good economy, the expenditure must be cut down, otherwise not. My hon'ble friend Mr. Fazl-ul Haq said yesterday that the pruning knife must be applied mercilessly and everywhere items of expenditure should be cut down. The metaphor is good, but it is, I am afraid, bad botany. Sir only judicious pruning invigorates the plant and promotes luxurious vegetation. The indiscriminate use of the pruning knife is not only not good but it acts like a blight on a plant. If we cut down expenditure indiscriminately, the result will be that we will make the Secretariat unpopular and, I apprehend, may lose the services of many experts. We require their services as we ourselves are not experts but more or less amateurs. As more and more of us come into positions of responsibility in the administration and Government, more work devolves on the Secretariat, whose long experience in their special departments is drawn upon to efficiently and expeditiously get through the work. Besides this, we should consider that the Secretariat is not made up of young men, but of men well on in years, who

require a change after strenuous work in the heat of the plains. They do not take rest up at the hills, but without breaking the continuity of work, which will happen if they are forced to take leave, they work and work harder and better during their stay in the hills. Consider, Sir, how much money will be spent in arranging reliefs for persons who will be forced to take leave at shorter intervals on medical grounds. How much money will be spent on overseas allowance to attract men to an unpopular service. I do not think that the proposition set forth in the resolution is a sound one. It is not a remunerative scheme. It is based on false economy—nay, parsimony. I have, as a medical man, often advised people to go to the hills after they have worked here in the rains and during summer months. Besides the European officials a large number of Indian people go to the hills during the exodus, but simply because at present the officials happen to be largely Europeans, it is no reason that we should cut down expenditure on this head and not look to the future. We, Indians, also go there and come back with renewed health. I go there myself. Why should not the Europeans, who are also overworked, go to the hills? I do not hold any brief for them, but if you look to the figures which I am sure the Government member will give us, you will find that the expenditure is not very much and that the money is well spent, and that you can work better in the hills than in the sweltering heat of Calcutta. Calcutta might be a very good place at the present moment, but the climate of Calcutta is undeniably enervating. The hon'ble mover, who is a Municipal Commissioner, can easily get statistics of sickness and mortality in Calcutta during summer months and immediately after the rains. The only thing that I want to say is that we must be fair, absolutely fair, fair even to our enemies, and that there must not be any racial consideration in deciding the question. Now that we have got some power in our hands, let us use it judiciously in the best interest of our country. As the hon'ble mover himself has said, "it is a matter which we should look at from a broad point of view;" from the point of view of economy yes, but of efficiency also and more so. I, as a surgeon, have often sacrificed the finger to save the hand, the hand to save the limb, and the limb to save the whole system and body. There is construction even in apparent destruction. I oppose the motion.

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): The resolution raises a question which is one of the antiques of political discussion in Bengal, or, for the matter of that, in most provinces, and it follows that there is very little new that can be said about it. I dealt with the question at some length at Dacca in the old Council in 1917, and anybody who cares to look up the proceedings of that meeting will find there most of the arguments which I can now adduce. I do not propose, therefore, to speak at length, and I will put my points as concisely as possible, the

more so as I would fain keep the debate free from the street-corner catchwords which are not infrequently introduced in discussions of this matter to the prejudice of the real issues.

In the debate to which I have already alluded, the main points which I endeavoured to establish were these: In the first place the so-called exodus is neither so comprehensive nor so expensive as is generally supposed. I then mentioned that some 31 higher officials were involved, and that the cost was roughly Rs. 91,000 a year. Since then we have endeavoured, consistently with the tone of that debate, to reduce the expenditure, and the latest figures—excluding Heads of Departments who pay their own way up and take few clerks with them—show that the cost was a little over Rs. 46,000 in 1918-19 and a little over Rs. 52,000 in 1919-20; that is, about half a lakh of rupees of year. Out of this approximately Rs. 38,000 and Rs. 43,000, respectively, were spent on ministerial establishments and their allowances. Therefore the cost is a great deal less than is usually supposed, while the duration of the stay is only about two months before the rains and about six weeks after. My second point was that Secretariat work is of such a nature that it can be performed away from Calcutta without detriment, and even with enhanced efficiency, especially the consideration of larger questions away from the disturbing elements of personal interviews and interruptions of that kind. Thirdly, I endeavoured to establish that if heavy, continuous and trying work is to be expected from men, most of whom are no longer in their first youth, they should be allowed to carry on the work with the relief which follows from the cooler climate of the hills. At the head of all, we have the Governor. In this province he is a nobleman who comes from home. He is fortunately young, but is no longer as young as he was. He is bound to serve for five years continuously, and it is eminently to the benefit of the province that he should do so. He is not allowed to take leave during that time. The responsibility devolving upon him is very great and his work is continuous. Then we have the Members of the Executive Council. They are all expected to serve for five years, and whatever be the leave due to them when they accept office, they cannot get leave afterwards except on medical certificate. Even then, they are only allowed six months, and if they are too broken down to return after that period, they would get no pay for the period of their absence—a procedure which may be beneficial to the public exchequer but is somewhat hard on the victim. Then you now have Ministers. Ministers are elected and cannot be replaced. In the event of a short breakdown, it will not be possible or proper to put in somebody else in the place of a Minister. Therefore in the interest of popular administration in this country a Minister should be kept physically fit to perform his duties continuously. Even in England it is not the case that Ministers have to sit at their desks *de die in diem*. They can absent themselves from their work and they do avail themselves of the

opportunities that arise for so doing. Hence my point was that the move to the hills in the truest sense makes for efficiency.

So much for the old arguments. I will now deal with the stock objections which are frequently brought forward. The first has been put by the hon'ble mover, namely, that we go to the hills for nothing else but for our own comfort and for our personal convenience, a criticism which, I can only charitably assume, is based on entire ignorance of the conditions under which we carry on our work. As regards the second point, that of cost, I have already gone into details. The third stock argument is that by being away for two short periods, we lose touch with public opinion, a contention which never seemed to me to be sound or sustainable, especially in these days of enlarged Councils. Lastly, there is the oft-repeated analogy, and to my mind the false analogy, of High Court Judges, merchants and district officers. These have not the same continuous work to do as in the Secretariat, and Judges enjoy a regular vacation. Business men, especially those in the senior ranks, have greater opportunities of proceeding home on leave than officials.

All these conclusions still hold good. But it is obvious that new conditions have effected certain changes. In the first place the numerical strength of Government is now greater, and it would entail an increase of expenditure to go to the hills in the old style; possibly, also, there might be greater difficulties of accommodation, especially office accommodation, at Darjeeling. Secondly, a larger popular element has now been introduced, and rightly introduced, into the Government. That being so, we have, in the light of these new factors, carefully re-examined the whole question, and I would now state the conclusions we have arrived at.

In the first place, I hope it will be admitted that if we are to have the best men available as our Governors, they must be allowed to go to the hills. I anticipate the support of the majority in this respect with greater confidence, because in the debate at Dacca this point was specifically admitted by Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, Babu Surendra Nath Ray and others, and practically accepted by the Council as a whole. Now, if the Governor goes to the hills for these two short periods, I put it to the Council that it is clearly essential that he should have a free hand in keeping himself in touch with his Members and Ministers. To hold otherwise would be entirely inconsistent with the spirit of the constitution under which we are now working. Under that constitution, as has been often pointed out in recent discussions, the personal duties of the Governor are very onerous, and it is essential that he should be in touch, whenever need may arise, with his Government either in whole or part. We must leave it to his discretion to maintain such touch with his Members and Ministers as he may think best, and to require the presence of Secretaries and Heads of Departments as occasion

may arise, they being the people who are primarily responsible for departmental cases. If Members and Ministers have occasionally to go to Darjeeling, it is equally impossible to stipulate that they should leave Sealdah, say, on Monday, arrive at Darjeeling on Tuesday, and leave for Calcutta on Wednesday. A series of frequent wearisome and expensive railway journeys would obviously not make for efficiency, neither would it serve any good purpose.

Well, in these circumstances, Government are prepared to alter the previously existing system by which the Secretariat moved as a whole on a particular day in April to Darjeeling, coming down in June, leaving again in September and coming down at the end of October or the beginning of November, and to that extent I hope we shall meet the wishes of this Council and carry with us the majority of its members. It is, in effect, in compliance with the sense of the resolution, though not within its precise letter, and I submit that it is a reasonable arrangement arrived at in consideration of the arguments which we have often met in the past. It will, in practice, materially minimise the duration of the stay of Members of Government, other than the Governor, in Darjeeling, and it will materially reduce the cost of the move, a large part of which, as I have already said, is on account of the ministerial establishments, which will in future be reduced to the lowest level commensurate with the conduct of work. Whether this change may not give rise to the loss of efficiency, which we have apprehended in the past, and which I still apprehend in the future, we cannot say. The members of this Council perhaps find it difficult to appreciate the dislocation which it means to the work of Government if officers of Government responsible for giving orders have to be frequently changed, it may be temporarily or it may be permanently. However, be that as it may, as I have said, we are willing to try this new system, and I hope it will be recognised by the Council, that in so doing we are making a sincere and honest endeavour to meet arguments of which we do not admit the validity, but which we recognise do carry weight with many.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: With your permission, I should like to say a few words. The Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler has stated something about street-corner talk. As an elected member I can assure him that during my active election campaign, at my meetings in Calcutta and also in the districts, this subject was continually brought up, and lively public interest was shown in the same. I was asked: "If returned, will you vote against the exodus to the hills?" I promised to do so, because I thought the exodus was unnecessary. There are three points only to be considered—health, efficiency, and economy. The reply to the first is seen in the appearance of the *burra sahibs* of Calcutta—look at their ruddy complexions and physical fitness—they do not look as if their stay in the plains did them much harm—and the other two points are absolutely exploded by the remarks

of Lord Carmichael in his reply to the address of the Darjeeling Municipality. He said: "I am afraid I cannot agree with those who profess to think that far more work is done in the hills than in the plains. In Bengal, at any rate, that is certainly not the case. When dealing with those files, from which there is never any escape, I have often wished that Darjeeling was nearer Calcutta so that I might have got the information I needed quickly."

Now then, gentlemen, we know that the District Judges do their work in Alipore and we also know that the merchant princes do their work here. We cannot call them young men and I think all of them do their work efficiently. The members must take into consideration the fact that there must be dislocation and delay in business by the removal of papers to Darjeeling and possibility of same being mislaid or lost, and I trust the members of this House will vote in favour of this resolution.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: From the Government point of view Sir Henry Wheeler has laid a very clear case for the consideration of the Council. It is not my intention to in any way minimise the desire, the honest desire, on the part of the mover of this resolution regarding the importance which he attaches to the centralisation of Government in Calcutta, but I think that not only as a Member of Government, but as an Indian who is perhaps more acclimatised to the climate of Bengal than the average European, I would like to point out certain of the advantages that there are in this so-called migration to the hills. Sir Henry has mentioned in his speech that in future Government are prepared to take up to the hills as few of the Secretaries and heads of departments and ministerial officers as might be compatible with the move of His Excellency the Governor and the occasional stays of the Members and Ministers. What I should like to emphasise regarding what Sir Henry Wheeler has said, not from the point of view that I happen to possess a comfortable house and a good deal of landed property in the Darjeeling district—for personally I do not like Darjeeling as it does not suit my health very well—but from the point of view of Government that I have found since I came into Government that we really do and finish more work up in Darjeeling than down here, specially after a strenuous session of the Bengal Council in Calcutta. And what is more It must not be forgotten that visitors to Darjeeling, when they go up there for the Puja vacation, if they have eyes—and I think some of them have—must have noticed that even during the Puja holidays many of the Secretaries as well as the Members are not idle and do not while away their time with mere pastimes: but during the holidays they have to do a good deal of work and carry through and finish it. I do not think

that the temptations of ice, fans or typewriters or telephones in Calcutta are of such a nature as would draw the sympathy of the members of this Council, when I tell you, gentlemen, that in September, 1919, when I was coming back from Darjeeling, I happened to spend a few days at Kurseong and, early one morning, when I was having a walk, whom should I meet, but the advocate of ice and fans and typewriters and telephones, the mover of this resolution, Babu Surendra Nath Mullick, enjoying a holiday at Kurseong. He told me he was very glad to get away from the heat of this place to the enjoyable climate of the hills. Well, gentlemen, you will admit that what is sauce for the goose can also be sauce for the gander. You must also admit that as human beings we do require a certain amount of relaxation, although I tell you that as a Member of Government and ever since I accepted Lord Ronaldshay's kind invitation to take up the work when Lord Sinha made his way to England for the Imperial Conference I have not had really and honestly a day's rest, for even when I took over charge from Lord Sinha for the second time I took it over in a bed of sickness after a very severe operation and at a time when I was forbidden by doctors to do any work, and my old Secretary, Mr. O'Malley, will bear testimony to this fact. It is therefore quite clear that because some of us happen to go up to Darjeeling for certain parts of the year we do not go there and enjoy holidays.

As regards Lord Carmichael's statement to the Commissioners of the Darjeeling Municipality, I am sorry that Sir Henry did not explain that. When did he make it—in the last year of office? and why did he do so? Well, I do not wish to belittle a Governor, but I would say these utterances may have had a significance of their own to him, but could not possibly be said to apply to the Government as a whole or present or future Governors. Further, you must now make up your mind about another thing. Many of you, rightly or wrongly, have discarded the old form of heads of Government—the Lieutenant-Governors who were members of the Indian Civil Service. You have now accepted the principle of getting out Governors from England. There is no guarantee that you will get an agreeable Scotchman evidently much after the heart of Mr. Campbell Forrester like Lord Carmichael. Mr. Campbell Forrester forgets that *burra sahibs* take their holidays and can go on leave without having to put in a substitute or resign his post as is done when a Member of Government goes on sick leave. When you have accepted the principle that Governors should come out from England, it is no good trying to hold up to them that the climate of Calcutta is suitable to their temperament or to their health all the year round. You would do well to remember that you will not always get a man like Lord Carmichael nor will you get a man like your present Governor, and therefore it is essential, specially when under the Reforms Schemes so much responsibility has been put on the shoulders of the Governor, that he should have some time during

the year to divide between leisure and work under better conditions than prevail in Calcutta during the rains or autumn. Now if you once admit this fact, you must also look into the question of the present constitution of the Government. It is true that many orders are issued in the name of the Governor in Council, for the Governor cannot himself issue the orders and most of the orders emanate from the heads of departments, but in most cases these orders emanate after His Excellency has decided upon the course of action in consultation with his Members of Council and in future with his Ministers as well. That being so, and as Sir Henry Wheeler has very justly pointed out that you must allow the Governor a free discretion as to when or where he will require the services of the Members of the Council and Ministers, you must allow him a free hand also, specially when you cannot stop the Governor going up to Darjeeling. What I ask you, gentlemen, is this. Sir Henry Wheeler has given you the figures. I can well understand, in view of the present financial position of this presidency, the condition of your mind regarding the financial position generally. But I would personally, if I were not among the Government to-day, deprecate and strongly deprecate doing away with this move, and what is further, I would like you all to remember this, that if you want the Secretariat, the Members of Council or the Governor to do the work for you to the best of their abilities, when you know that in the Government there is that element to whom the climatic conditions are trying at times—when you know that among the Members of Government there are men to whom this climate is not so suitable as it may be to those of us belonging to the land—you ought to be a little more catholic and you ought to be a little more charitable in bringing this question up before this Council. I cannot help thinking that with the exception of some of the references made to the 1886 debate that the views that have been adduced have been very uncharitable, and I appeal to the good sense of this Council, in view of what Sir Henry Wheeler has said, not to accept the resolution that has been moved by Babu Surendra Nath Mullick, and I also hope that the mover of the resolution himself will, after the assurance that has been given by Sir Henry Wheeler, not press for his resolution.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I had the honour of moving this resolution in the Dacca meeting in 1917. That resolution was lost because the number of non-official members present there was small. Dacca was not the proper battle-ground for such a resolution as this. We hope to have a better fate to-day. Well, I may tell you that probably it was in February or March, 1917, that I wanted to move a resolution for the constitution of a committee to inquire into the expenses of the Darjeeling exodus. That resolution was not admitted. I said, however, all that I wanted to say with reference to this matter in my budget speech of 1917; but it was a cry in the wilderness, no answer came from

the official side. It is necessary that I should go into some details in order that the members present here may have some idea about the annual expenditure of this annual exodus. You will probably be surprised to hear that while during the administration of Sir Stuart Bayley during the year 1889-90 the expenditure was Rs. 29,786 and Rs. 29,780, the expenditure during the year 1907-08 was over a lakh of rupees: that was during the administration of Sir Andrew Fraser. Well, in 1913 the expenditure was Rs. 96,568, in 1915 it was Rs. 91,843; but for some reason or other the expenditure in 1914 was Rs. 68,749. But again it rose up, and it was I think in 1915-16 that the expenditure rose to Rs 91,000 So again from Rs. 68,000 the figure has gone up to Rs 91,000

Our esteemed friend, Mr. Forrester, has already quoted the reply of Lord Carmichael to the address of the Darjeeling Municipality. Well, I also quoted that reply in my speech at Dacca, and you perhaps all know what he said. He said: "I am afraid I cannot agree with those who profess to think that far more work is done in the hills than in the plains. In Bengal at any rate that is certainly not the case. When dealing with those files, from which there is never any escape, I have often wished that Darjeeling was nearer Calcutta so that I might have got the information I needed quickly, but I was pleased to move for my own enjoyment and for the sake of my health, though I know that if I had been in the plains I could have done more work. I know too that many of my friends, especially those who seem to me to work hardest, think the same thing, and I cannot see why we should not say so."

This was the reply of the head of a province to the address of the Darjeeling Municipality. The reply was given on the 1st November, 1916 Now the official version is that the nature of the work that is done at Darjeeling requires that we should work in a hill station to do the work efficiently, as if all the other work that is done in the plains is not done efficiently. I see Mr. Donald there: he was in the Secretariat for a very long time and used to go up to Darjeeling during the summer with Government There has not been any lack of efficiency in the administration of the Calcutta Corporation now that he is in Calcutta and not at Darjeeling It is curious to see one of my Indian friends, who was Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, Mr Lang, also going up there. As soon as he was posted in the Secretariat he thinks it necessary to go up to Darjeeling and spend his time there—why, nobody knows. The leading Anglo-Indian paper, the *Englishman*, said some time ago that the annual migration was a waste of money. Well, I think every word of it is bitterly true. We have got before us the merchant princes of Calcutta I think their work is as much responsible work and they have to do work as efficiently as any members of the Indian Civil Service in the

hills. Then there is another question, and it is this: the members of the Indian Civil Service, when they are District and Sessions Judges, have to do their work in the plains. I think when a District Judge tries a case of murder or has to distinguish a case of murder from a case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, he has to think about the case as much as any Secretary or Chief Secretary has to think in the hills of Darjeeling whether this Deputy Magistrate is to be transferred to Noakhali or to Tippera. So I think the grounds on which the Secretariat and the heads of departments go to Darjeeling are not at all tenable, at least in these days when we have got the electric fans and other amenities in Calcutta. Mr. Bompas is trying to make Calcutta as beautiful as he possibly can.

Then, I understand that the heads of departments have not rented any house at Darjeeling for the next season. Whether that is *gup* or that is true I do not know, but that is what I have heard. That is probably in anticipation of the feeling of the people that the high officials should not go to Darjeeling. My friend, Babu Surendra Nath Mullick, has told us that in a meeting of 1886 protesting against the exodus to the hills Mr. George Yule, who was then in Calcutta, took a leading part. I was with his estimable nephew, Sir David Yule, only in the month of December, and what he told me was this: "I have been in Calcutta for the last 40 years; I know Calcutta and I know Bombay, I do not know any other place. Whenever I go away from Calcutta, I go to England and nowhere else." Though Darjeeling is within 18 hours' journey from Calcutta he had never been there.

There is another question, a constitutional question, which I do not know if I shall be justified in placing before this House, and it is this. You must all know that Darjeeling has practically been treated under the Reforms Scheme as a backward province, so that for four months in the year you want to go to a backward province in order that you may spend the rest of your time at a place where the Reforms Scheme is in full swing. I find in the 9th despatch on the Constitutional Reforms the following:—

"No legislation should be enacted, no question should be asked, and no resolution should be moved, affecting such area in the Legislative Council.

"The administration of such areas as regards both reserved and transferred subjects should be carried on either by the Governor, as proposed in the report, or, as we ourselves should prefer, by the Governor in Council.

"Budget provision for the administration should be made separately and should not be subjected to the scrutiny of the Legislative Council."

Again, we have in the *Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary* of Monday, the 3rd January, 1921, the following:—

"The Governor-General in Council is pleased to authorise the Governor of Bengal in Council to direct that any Act of the local legislature of Bengal shall not apply to the said territories or any part thereof, or shall apply thereto, subject to such exceptions or modifications as the Governor may think fit.

"The provisions of the said Act which require proposals for expenditure by the Governor-General in Council and by the local Government of Bengal, to be submitted to the vote of the Legislative Assembly and of the Legislative Council of the Governor of Bengal, respectively, shall not apply to proposals for expenditure in these territories."

So we have got no jurisdiction over Darjeeling or over the amount that will be spent on it. Even if the Executive Councillors go there, I do not think the Ministers should go.

I may say in conclusion that we have no objection to His Excellency the Governor, with one or two of his personal staff going there for a month or two in the year, or if necessary, sending for one or other Member of the Executive Council, when necessary or sending for a Secretary, but to take away all the officers, including the ministerial officers and heads of departments and dislocate business in Calcutta is something which cannot commend itself to me nor, I think, to the House.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: This resolution, which has been moved by my friend Babu Surendra Nath Mullick, has my whole-hearted support. I was rather disappointed (though I listened with rapt attention) with the two speeches made by the two Members of the Executive Council, and the net impression that the two speeches left in my mind was that they were at very great pains to defend a very weak case. I do not see any reason why it should be assumed that the members of this House take it for granted that the Members of Government who migrate to Darjeeling do it purely for the sake of pleasure. I do not think that anybody or any member of this House ever entertained any such idea. We base our whole case on public grounds. We do not for a moment say that Members of Government who migrate to Darjeeling do no work; on the other hand we say, with all the emphasis we can command, that they do work there, but the question from our point of view is that of economy in the long run and of efficiency. We think greater efficiency is secured when the high officials are living in vital contact with public opinion in Calcutta. If, for the sake of health, any holiday is needed, no one will grudge. But barring health reasons we would like to see our official Members and our Ministers living in close touch with us.

I say it for health reasons any member is perfectly justified to take a holiday. But from the point of view of efficiency we think that it

would tend to greater efficiency if we have the Government in our midst all throughout the year. I do not believe for a moment that all the people who are forced to migrate to Darjeeling because of this official migration much appreciate their stay in Darjeeling. Very many of them complain and complain bitterly of it, and therefore on principle of the greatest good to the greatest number we would like to see Government located here. As most of the ground has already been covered by other speakers, I do not wish to waste the time of the Council by a long speech.

Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: This is one of the retrenchment resolutions that are before us and it embodies in principle a reform which has long been overdue. The annual migration to the hills has been the subject of perennial complaint by the Indian public, and reference has been made by the mover of this resolution to a meeting or demonstration that was held in this historic hall. I was present at that demonstration. It was an unique demonstration engineered, not by the professional agitators, as my friend suggests, but got up by the entire non-official community of Calcutta—the merchant princes, the zamindars and leading men. I remember the vigorous speech that was delivered by Mr. Evans-Pugh, whose voice is still ringing in my ears, against the exodus of the Government of India to Simla. He said that lakhs of rupees had been spent in building a house for the accommodation of the Viceroy. What use would the pillars of that house in Simla come to, if Simla was given up as a second capital? I remember that Mr. Evans-Pugh said that if the house could not be put to any other use it could be used as an asylum for incurable lunatics. This resolution is not concerned with the exodus to Simla, as we are only concerned with the exodus to Darjeeling. But the arguments are the same and our position in this Council, as an organ of public opinion, demands that we should see that money is not unnecessarily spent in migrations to the hills, though we do not grudge the Europeans going to the hills to recruit their health, to cool their brains and to get away from the heat. My friend, Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq, said yesterday that it was for efficiency of work that the officers go to the hills. Many things are done in the name of efficiency. I do not think that Government will lose its efficiency if it does not go to Darjeeling, although it may be true that the Executive Councillors who repair to Darjeeling get much refreshed and run on their return work like giants. There are many people—High Court Judges, merchant princes, busy lawyers—who remain in Calcutta and do their work quite efficiently. But without Darjeeling this Government would also have worked very efficiently in the plains. By the move to Darjeeling the Government loses touch with the people. As for the Ministers who are the representatives of the people, I do not think they ought to lose touch with the people: they should not go to Darjeeling. His Excellency the Governor, as he is not to attend the

Council, may go: the Executive Councillors may also take holiday trip but at their own expense, as the money that is spent in this move is no an inconsiderable amount If the move of the Governor and th Executive Councillors also involves the move of the Ministers t Darjeeling, I am afraid it would be doing some violence to the const tution which has been so recently vouchsafed to us

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: The move to Da jeeling is open to serious objection We find that the High Cou Judges, merchants and other high officials do their work quite efficiently so this fetish of efficiency reduces itself almost to nothing.

The question of economy has also got to be considered. In m opinion we should practice the strictest economy. I supported the reso lution of my friend, Babu Surendra Nath Ray, on this subject in th old Council, but it was not carried I have again an opportunity o speaking on this proposal and hope and trust that the Council wi carefully consider the reasons that have been put forward.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: The resolution ha my fullest sympathy, but in fairness to the European gentlemen must say that the expenditure on the exodus to Darjeeling has not bee quite wasted Darjeeling has been made what it is by the Governo and the officials going there, it is now a paying concern, and I believ that the cost of the exodus has been fully covered by the great expan sion of trade and by the income of Darjeeling and its neighbourhood But that does not justify the continuance of this expenditure on th exodus I can fully appreciate the argument that the Governor an these high officials should be allowed to go to Darjeeling because i they do not go, Darjeeling will fall into disrepute and there will be loss to our revenue, but I do not understand why the expenditure o the exodus should be paid by the Bengal tax-payers The Governo gets Rs. 1,20,000, and each Member of the Executive Counc Rs 64,000 a year, and they can certainly spend a little amount on th trip to Darjeeling. I may mention here that such high salaries ar not given anywhere else in the world, so these high officials shoul bear the cost of their sojourn to the hills I say with confidence tha the people of Bengal are losing the sympathy of their Governors, els the latter would not throw the burden of this expenditure on the people I do suggest that the Governor alone should go to Darjeeling and th expenditure for the move must be borne by him.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: Although I am a new recru in this Government, the question before the House is quite familiar t me as it is to everyone who reads newspapers. The question that has been raised by the mover of the resolution is a very old one, it takes u back at least to 1886. The hon'ble member quoted from the speech o one of the great merchants of Calcutta a passage which contained formidable forebodings as to what would happen to the country i

this so-called exodus was continued for a long time. Gentlemen, the time that has elapsed since then has furnished a complete answer to these forebodings. The so-called exodus to Darjeeling, I think the House will agree, has not, in fact, in any way affected the progress of the country, or the efficiency of the Government during all these years. It has also been said, "Look at the Judges of the High Court, they carry on their duties in the plains in Calcutta during the summer, and they carry on their duties undoubtedly most efficiently," but they forget that the Judges of the High Court enjoy a recess which is not granted to the Members of the Government. A recess of 2½ months is a very valuable time in which hardworked officials, such as Judges, can recruit their health. Sir, I have just left the High Court of another province and I can assure the House that all Judges feel that were it not for the recess which they enjoy, they would not be able to carry on their duties to their own satisfaction or to the satisfaction of the country. Now, it was conceded, very generously conceded by several hon'ble members, that if Members of the Government or heads of departments and Secretaries wanted a change to the hills for reasons of health, they would not mind their having some recess or respite in some other form. But so far at least as the Members of the Executive Council and the Ministers are concerned, there is no such thing as privilege leave or a recess. As the hon'ble members have been told by Sir Henry Wheeler the Members of the Executive Council can get leave for a certain time only if they have actually broken down in health. But those who have to carry on the administration in Calcutta necessarily require, as we have been told by an hon'ble member who is a doctor of experience, some change of climate and conditions. A great deal has been made of the argument of economy. Since yesterday I have been hearing this argument on all sorts of occasions, but, Sir, I venture to suggest to the Council that it is possible, even in a poor country like this, to exaggerate arguments based on economy. There is true economy and there is false economy, and I suggest to the House that the proposal under consideration is not based on sound considerations of economy. In the first place what happens now is, in my opinion, rather inaccurately called "exodus." There is really no such thing as "exodus" of the Government to the hills, a good portion of the machinery of the Government stays on in Calcutta to carry on the administration, only the Governor and the Members of the Executive Council with their Secretaries and a sufficient clerical staff from the Secretariat go to the hills. The cost of all that, as you have been told by Sir Henry Wheeler, is Rs. 46,000 a year, and I do not think that you ought to grudge this cost, if it be necessary, as undoubtedly it is in my opinion, for the efficient conduct of public business. I am not unfamiliar with the climate of Calcutta. I lived here for many years ago till I went away to another province, and no one can deny that for some portion of the year it is most difficult to

carry on one's work in Calcutta. It is for this reason especially that the High Court of Calcutta takes a recess of 10 weeks during the rains. In the hot season also the conditions are not very agreeable and certainly do not conduce to efficiency in discharge of official business. But, Sir, I can assure the House, and I may confidently in this connection speak on behalf of my colleagues as well, that if it were really necessary for the proper discharge of our duties to suffer all the inconveniences and discomforts of the plains during the hot months, we should all most gladly sacrifice our personal comfort and convenience in the interests of public business. It is said that during the time the Members of the Government are not in Calcutta, they lose touch with public opinion. Now, when the Council is sitting, the Members of the Government do not get away from Calcutta, as they have to be here in order to carry on the business of the Council. It is only when the Council is not sitting, and there is no legislative business to attend to, that the Executive Members of the Council go to Darjeeling. I am perfectly familiar with Darjeeling; whenever I have been there I have met many of my friends of Calcutta; they find it quite necessary for purposes of health to get away to Darjeeling for some time, and I believe Darjeeling is becoming in fact so overcrowded that it is very difficult nowadays to find accommodation there. It may happen sometimes that some Members of the Government may be required in Calcutta to deal with an emergency, on these occasions you may be absolutely sure that those Members of the Executive Council whose presence in Calcutta would be useful would always come down without hesitation. There is not the least difficulty in their doing so. It seems to me that there is really no particular necessity for all the Members of the Government to remain in Calcutta throughout the year. Further, as has been pointed out by Sir Henry Wheeler, there are practical difficulties in the way of the proposal being accepted. The Governor must go to Darjeeling for some portion of the year and he must have the opportunity of consulting the Members of the Executive Council and also the Ministers from time to time. Sir Henry Wheeler has told the members what modifications the Government are prepared to make in this matter and I beg the Council to consider whether the concessions will not more than sufficiently meet the requirements of the case.

Mr. H. BARTON: We have heard a good deal as to the real causes underlying the change to Darjeeling. Somehow it appears to me that much of this is more from prejudice than a true knowledge of the facts. We have been told that this question is to be considered from the standpoint of finance, and I am glad that the mover of the resolution has changed the resolution in this respect, because it rids the discussion of any party feeling and brings us down to a fair consideration of the case. When we say fairness, we say fairness with due consideration of all the facts, consideration as affecting the claims of this

Council and the people on the one hand, and the consideration of the claims of the workers on the other: and those whom we are discussing to-day constitute the workers. It does not need much to convince this Council that this is an age in which the claims of the workers come first. We find that a great deal of capital is being made of what the late Governor, Lord Carmichael, had to say on the question of work in Darjeeling and work on the plains. Without any desire to be disrespectful to our late Governor, I need only say that it is a very peculiar position for any Governor to have taken up, making an admission on the one hand that it was unnecessary, and yet, on the other hand, allowing his Ministers to do it year in and year out. Whether we are prepared to be moved by an opinion such as this, and whether we are prepared to accept that opinion as an honest one, is, I beg to say, a very different question.

We are asked by the mover of the resolution to believe that the living conditions in Calcutta have so considerably improved to-day as to give it the first place in India for comfort and health even during the hottest season of the year. Apart from the official members who have a change to Darjeeling, may I ask you to collect statistics from the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway of the thousands of people who run away from Calcutta to Darjeeling? You will find that during recent years, a considerably larger number of Indian gentlemen have found it necessary to rush away from the heat of Calcutta to Darjeeling. What I consider one of the strongest evidences against this statement is the hill schools in Darjeeling. If Calcutta afforded all the facilities, if living conditions were as we are asked to believe they are, may I ask you why so many parents consider it far better to send their children to hill schools in Darjeeling and other hill stations, regardless of the fact that maintenance in hill schools means a considerably larger expense than it would be in Calcutta or the plains? These children have to be built up physically, their health has to be considered, and it is well known that many parents, although they are poorly paid, are prepared to sacrifice a great deal in order that they might find the necessary amount of money to meet the extra expense of sending their children to hill schools. We are asked to look at various figures put up by one of the members, and we are asked to look upon these figures as something appalling, something like a wastage of good money. Don't you think this money well spent in keeping those who are working for this Council in good health? There is a considerable amount of enhanced work as a result of the Reforms, is it too much to lay out this amount of money in keeping those who are to do this greater amount of work in good health and in a fit condition to do that work?

One gentleman pointed out that he preferred Bombay to Calcutta, as the best place in India, and when he wanted a change he went home to England. Would you have your officials changed on every occasion when they go away for relaxation or rest, and thus be unable to have

a sitting of Council for lack of officers as a result of this continuous change? I do not think this argument carries any weight at all. What I wish to say is that we are asked to deny to the workers a consideration which every employer of labour equally extends to his employees. They realise the fact that their workers need a change if they are to do their work well. We all realise the fact that a few days' change in the hills recoups one to a considerable extent. I myself take a 10 days' change to Darjeeling every year, and return to my work and do it much better. All I wish to ask this Council is to consider the question from the standpoint of finance, as the mover of the resolution has asked us to do, and not to be guilty of supporting a resolution which will mark us as being a body of men unsympathetic and unreasonable and hard-hearted. I oppose the resolution.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I rise to support the resolution. A large number of members have supported the resolution. I have heard the last hon'ble speaker say that a change is wanted because change recruits health. But one thing which I cannot follow is this: well, this principle rather applies to an individual; does it apply to the Government collectively too? Last evening we heard from an hon'ble member that our Government practically consisted of the best brains. So our best brains also require change and relaxation and they must go to the hills every year at the expense of the poor people. We have come here to voice the sufferings of the poor children of the soil who are outside the Council hall, who are ill-fed—I should say who are hungry and are the victims of many diseases. Those people deserve every help. But the Government officials, who are paid princes' salaries, think that after a certain amount of work—I must admit that the work is supposed to be onerous—they require relaxation at the expense of these poor people. Well, if you find that you cannot do any work in the plains, you are welcome to take leave. But is it not curious, so far as our Government is concerned, that for four months without any break we shall have to go on without it? I have heard it said and read in several books that Government exists for the people, but to me it appears that we people exist for the Government. Unless and until this system of exodus to Darjeeling is given up, I believe the latter alternative will be more applicable to us. This system of Government ought not to be tolerated any more. Is it not a fact that because we have not got sufficient voice and authority in our Government that these English people and English Governors are to be brought out from Home? And therefore we have to allow this Government to go out from our touch. If that is our position, I bow down before that; but if we are to really meet on equal terms, then why these best brains have been collected at the head of the Government and are paid princes' salaries when they cannot put up with the climate in the plains, I really cannot follow. In any case, if any individual is a little exhausted, let him go on leave. The Govern-

ment which is really being controlled by all these gentlemen will, it is natural, find it convenient to make provision for the exodus.

With these few words, I beg to support the resolution.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I will not detain the House long on this point, but just say a few words on this resolution. I do not think I have the boldness to question Lord Carmichael's opinion in this matter, and no one, I think, before Mr. Barton has ever questioned it. I beg to say that what Lord Carmichael said gave expression to his honest convictions; and if he admitted the strength of the protest and a good part of the case against the annual exodus, I think Sir Henry Wheeler has given the rest of the case away. He says, in reply to the very forcible argument,—forcible, of course, from the point of view of the non-official members,—that Government by going to Darjeeling do not lose touch with public opinion here; if that is so, I do not understand why he thinks that His Excellency will lose touch with the Executive Council if he goes up alone. That is one point.

Another point of which Sir Henry Wheeler makes much is that the expenditure on the exodus has decreased, and if it has been decreasing, why should we make any noise over it? Under the Reforms the Members of the Government have increased, so necessarily expenditure will increase.

My third point is that under the Reforms the case against the exodus has acquired greater strength. Under the Reforms the volume of work will increase and we shall have to sit during the summer, and hence my point is that the work of the Legislative Council will surely suffer if the exodus continues as before. Now that we have a whole-time President and the Governor will not be required to preside over the Legislative Council, he may very well go to Darjeeling, but the Legislative Council work can be carried on here during the summer if only the other Members of the Government resist the temptation of going to Darjeeling.

Colonel A. J. PUGH: I am going to suggest that we should vote against this resolution on one ground, and that is on the ground of economy. I suggest to you that it will be false economy to vote in favour of this resolution, and my reason for saying so is this. We have listened to all the speeches that have been made both by official and non-official members explaining the exodus. Most of you are under the impression that it costs several lakhs of rupees for this annual exodus every year; we have been told that it only costs about half a lakh of rupees. It has been suggested that because the commercial men of Calcutta are able to stay down here and do their work, therefore the Members of the Government should also stay down here and do their work, but you have forgotten this fact, that several or most of the commercial men after, say three years' hard work, get at least eight months or more away in England, apart from an occasional rest up in

the hills, whenever they want it. If you are going to place your Members of Council on the same footing, you will probably have to allow two of the Members and Ministers to go away every year. That, I take it, will cost you more than Rs. 50,000 if you have to pay every member his salary while he is on leave. Therefore you will have very heavy bills running up while they are away on six months' leave, whereas if you keep them here they will work for 12 months in every year; therefore, though you think differently, you will find that it is really false economy to support this resolution. We have been told about the Chairman of the Corporation. I have been in the Corporation for several years and the Chairman, whoever he may be, has frequently been away on leave. You have also been referring to the healthy and fresh appearance of Mr. Bompas, but Mr. Bompas has just returned from long leave in England.

The Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, even before he was a Member of Council, used to spend a considerable portion of the year, for the recruitment of his health, at Darjeeling, where he has got a house. I believe that the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea would never have been willing to undertake his work as a Minister, if he were not to spend a considerable portion of the year at Darjeeling or Simultala; and it is obvious that the Government cannot go to Simultala, so they must go to Darjeeling.

There is another point with which we all agree, and that is that the Governor must go to Darjeeling every year. Well, if he goes to Darjeeling and if he does not have any of the Secretaries, Members or Ministers with him, what is he to do there? Will he simply go there to view the snows and not to carry on any work? Under these circumstances, I appeal to you to take this matter into your very serious consideration and judge whether the balance of convenience and the balance of economy is not in favour of voting against this resolution. There are disadvantages. I quite recognise that as well as anybody else. As a matter of fact, when we had the last elections, it caused us the greatest inconvenience, as the officer in charge of the preparation of the rolls was in Darjeeling; and these electoral rolls had to be sent to Darjeeling and nobody knew when they would be received back in Calcutta. As a matter of fact, if we weigh the disadvantages against the advantages, I think we shall find that on the ground of economy or on the ground of general efficiency, we should vote against this resolution.

Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: I have pleasure in supporting this resolution. The annual exodus to the hills has always been considered by the people of India to be a costly luxury in which we cannot indulge. The founders of the British Empire in India knew no Simla or Darjeeling or Mussoorie and worked hard in the plains to consolidate an empire which is the envy of the world. It has been urged in defence of the annual exodus that more work is done in the hills than in the plains. But Lord Carmichael exploded this theory, when, in reply to

an address presented by the Darjeeling Municipality, he said: "I am afraid I cannot agree with those who profess to think that far more work is done in the hills than in the plains. In Bengal, at any rate, that is certainly not the case. When dealing with these files, from which there is never any escape, I have often wished that Darjeeling were nearer Calcutta so that I might have got the information I needed quickly. I was pleased to move for my enjoyment and for the sake of my health, though I know that if I had been in the plains, I could have done more work. I know, too, that many of my friends, especially, those who seem to me to work hardest, think the same thing, and I cannot see why we should not say so."

If a Governor or a Member of the Executive Council wants to move to the hills for his enjoyment or for the purpose of his health, let him do so, but there is no justification for asking the poor people to pay for it.

Under the circumstances, I see no reason why the annual exodus to the hills should not be discontinued and the money spent on it devoted to useful purposes.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: There is no doubt that Darjeeling is a sanitarium and we must take into consideration the fact that, if the high officials remain a few months in Darjeeling in order to recruit their health and also to get sufficient stamina to cope with the arduous duties which they have to perform, it is a matter which the Council ought to take into consideration. I beg to submit that we must take the whole Council together, the high officials as well as ourselves. The officials are men of temperate climate and it is a consideration which the Council ought to show to people who come from a temperate climate, and Darjeeling has such a climate. That a stay in Darjeeling gives a greater fund of energy to people is known to all of us; and many of us go to Darjeeling to recruit our health. Therefore, I think that when it is a question of expense we consider that expenses should be limited to a minimum which we can afford. That ought to be the main consideration, when the Budget will come up for our consideration; but to say that because we can work in the plains, therefore every one ought to work in the plains, is, I think, a very fallacious argument. Then you see that the Judges of the High Courts have three months in the year for their recess and they go to some temperate regions in order to recruit their health, and they come back refreshed. That is the consideration, I submit, before the Council, and therefore on that ground I want to oppose the resolution moved by Babu Surendra Nath Mullick. But at the same time, as retrenchment is desirable, we ought to cut down the expenses as much as possible.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I beg that the question be now put.

The PRESIDENT called upon Babu Surendra Nath Mullick to reply.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I shall be very brief in my reply. In our younger days an eminent Professor—Dr. Hoernle—taught us a logical formula, and I shall apply that logical formula to the circumstances of this case. According to that logical formula, all men are liable to make mistakes when judging of things against their own interests. Sir Henry Wheeler is a man, and so he is liable to make such mistakes. All that he has said is nothing new and the sum total of all that he has said is that they want the cool salubrity of the hills. It is an old old argument which has always been urged on previous occasions and it has been considered long long ago and found to be quite invalid.

The Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan has told us that he found me last year at Kurseong taking a "change;" and that what is sauce for the gander is sauce for the goose. Here is a logical fallacy of the "undistributed middle." When I went to Kurseong, where I met the Hon'ble Maharaja, I went there at my own expense and sacrificing my own income, and that makes a world of difference to the situation under review.

Then, as regards Colonel Pugh's argument that the general efficiency of the administration does not suffer, I compare his own opinion with the opinion expressed by his late lamented and respected father, and I gladly accept the opinion of his father in preference to his, as the former is by far the more sensible one. That is all I have to say in my reply.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: To judge by the speeches that have been made in favour of this resolution since I last spoke it seems to me that I must have entirely failed to make clear to the Council what the position of Government in this matter is. We have just been told by Babu Surendra Nath Mullick that I have said nothing new, and we have been repeatedly told by other speakers that we are clinging to the old position in respect of this exodus, regardless of public criticism. What are the facts? May I reiterate our position? We start from the position that it is unreasonable to ask the Governor to spend the whole year in the plains. Assuming that the Governor goes for some months in a year to the hills, we contend that it is absolutely necessary that he should have a free hand in keeping himself in touch with his Members and Ministers. It follows that the maintenance of that touch may, and will, result in Members and Ministers, either individually or collectively, as also Secretaries and Heads of Departments, being for some periods of the year absent from Calcutta. But it is the intention of Government to discontinue the system under which the Secretariat moves as a whole on particular dates from Calcutta, returning to Calcutta on particular dates, and to work the system which I have outlined with the utmost regard to economy and with a view to the curtailment of the period for which the officials concerned are absent from Calcutta. That is a material change in past practice, made solely in deference to the public opinion

that has been voiced on various occasions in respect of this matter. That system will not be within the four corners of the resolution and for that reason we are bound to oppose it. But even if the resolution were rejected it is that system which we propose to follow during the ensuing year, with the probable result that money will be saved in comparison with the past, and that the total absence of officials from Calcutta will be materially curtailed.

The motion being put, a division was taken, with the following result:—

AYES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Afzal, Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M.
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ali, Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Birla, Babu Chaneshyamdas.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Chaudhuri, Sir Ashutosh.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Janah, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Maitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Poddar, Babu Keshoram.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Raja Manmatha Nath
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Suhrawardy, Mr. Z. R. Zahid.

NOES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Mesbah Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Barton, Mr. H.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr. C. H.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cochran, Mr. A.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
Donald, Mr. J.
Gordon, Mr. A. D.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. B.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Lang, Mr. J.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Marr, Mr. A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Rae, Mr. W. R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur.
Rhodes, Mr. C. W.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.
Roy, Mr. J. E.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.

Roy, Raja Manilall Singh.
Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus.
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Watson-Smyth, Mr. R. M.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 53 and the Noes 41, the motion was carried.

Adjournment.

The PRESIDENT: His Excellency the Governor having acce Mr. Watson-Smyth's resolution, this Council stands adjourned 3 o'clock to-morrow.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council assembled at 3 P.M. on the 9th February, 1921, in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers and 116 nominated and elected members.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): Order! Order! I have pleasure in announcing that I have received a telegram from His Excellency the Governor approving, under section 72C (2) of the Government of India Act, the election of Babu Surendra Nath Ray as Deputy-President of the Bengal Legislative Council. I also take this opportunity of making the following announcement:—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 3 of the Bengal Legislative Council Rules, 1920, I have nominated the following members of the Council to form a panel of four Chairmen, namely:—

Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri,
Mr. R. M. Watson-Smyth,
Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, and
Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq

Unless otherwise arranged, the senior member among them present in the above order will preside over the deliberations of the Council in the absence of the President and the Deputy-President."

The PRESIDENT: With the consent of those in whose names the resolutions stand, I would ask Babu Surendra Nath Ray to move his resolution first.

Financial position of Bengal.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: "This Council recommends to the Government that the Government of India be approached immediately with the request that early effect be given to the following recommendation contained in the Second Report of the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee, *e.g.*, 'The Committee desire to add their recognition of the peculiar financial difficulties of the Presidency of Bengal, which they accordingly commend to the special consideration of the Government of India.'"

Everyone is aware that the introduction of the Reforms has brought about a complete change in the financial relations between the Central and Provincial Governments. Under the law, as it existed before, all

revenues raised in any province from whatever sources it might have been raised belonged to the Government of India and the local Governments got what they were allowed by the Supreme Government. This division of revenue was known as the financial settlement, which in some provinces was settled for periods of five years and in others for lesser periods. This division was at the absolute discretion of the Government of India and every province was allowed so much money only as was supposed in the opinion of the Government of India to be its due. The result showed that there had been great inequalities in the revenues distributed by the Government of India. This would appear from the actual expenditure per head of population which each province was allowed to incur. The figures are for 1917-18:—Bombay, Rs. 5, Madras, Rs. 2-2, United Provinces, Re. 1-15; Bengal, Re. 1-10, Punjab Rs. 3; Burma, Rs. 5-3. The figures of the amount of tax raised in each province per head of population will be interesting; the figures are for the year 1919-20:—Bengal, Rs. 6-14, Madras, Rs. 4-13, United Provinces, Rs. 2-14-6; Bombay Rs. 13-12. With the first discussions of the Reforms proposals it was inevitable that this system should go, and that each province should be made independent in the matter of finance. With this purpose in view certain proposals were made in the Montagu-Chelmsford Report, Chapter VIII, by which certain heads of revenue, *e.g.*, Land Revenue, Irrigation and Excise, were proposed to be made wholly provincial, and certain other heads, *e.g.*, Customs and Income-tax, as Imperial. To meet the deficit in the Budget of the Government of India it was proposed that every province should pay to the Government of India 87 per cent. of the additional revenue which it got under the rearrangement. The distribution of the sources of income was so made that some provinces, *e.g.*, Madras, the United Provinces and the Punjab, which may be described as the lesser taxed provinces but the income of which was derived mainly from agricultural sources, got enormous advantage over the heavier taxed provinces, *e.g.*, Bengal and Bombay. After this distribution is made it is further remarked that Madras and the United Provinces would be paying a disproportionately larger amount of this income to the Supreme Government. Nothing is practically said about the equity of the principle of distribution, but it is assumed that it would be very unfair to the United Provinces and Madras but cannot be to Bengal, and that Bengal had no right to complain because for administrative reasons it was found necessary to permanently settle the land revenue there.

We have no information as to how the joint authors of the report came to this conclusion and whether this was done after full consultation with the local Governments concerned. I have some time ago given notice of a resolution to be moved in this Council, asking the local Government to publish all the correspondence between this Government and the Government of India on the subject, and these, when published, will enlighten the Council on the point. The fact stands, however, that in the financial adjustment proposed, Bengal, which previously had been

llowed to expend least, with the consequence that measures to ameliorate he condition of the people have been systematically starved, was llowed not only absolutely the least additional income but also the ast expansive revenue, with the inevitable prospect of fresh taxation om the start of the new régime. The proposals made in the Montagu-helmsford Report were not approved of by the Joint Select Committee f Parliament on the Government of India Bill, which directed that a ully qualified Commission should be appointed to advise as to the rinciple and which contributions from the Provincial Governments to e Central Government should in future be adjusted. Before this Committee, known as the Meston Committee, the Finance Committee of the ate Council proposed that the share of the Government of India in Land evenue should remain as it was, with the responsibility of that Government regarding famine relief, that duties on exports and revenue from on-judicial stamps be made provincial sources, and that half of the ncome from income-tax in any particular province should also be made rovincial and that the deficit in the Government of India was to be met y proportionate contribution from each province.

The proposals of the Meston Committee practically endorsed the disbution of revenues proposed in the Montagu-Chelmsford Report xcept that "Non-judicial Stamps" was made provincial. The report so proposed a new proportion regarding the contribution to be paid by ch local Government to the Central Government. By this new proposal engal, which was most adversely affected by the new adjustment and ad to begin with a deficit, was to pay permanently the largest share of e deficit in the income of the Government of India, that is, 19/90, hile the provinces which got the most advantage, that is, Madras and e United Provinces, were to pay proportionately a lesser amount, that , Madras 17/90, United Provinces 18/90, Punjab 9/90. When the roposals of the Committee were published, the Finance Committee of is Council lodged a protest against them, copies of which were also ent to England for circulation among members of the Parliamentary elect Committee. The late Council also passed the following resolutions on the subject:—

"(1) That this Council is of opinion that the reasons assigned by Lord Meston's Committee for accepting the principle of division of existing heads of revenue as between the Provincial and the Imperial Governments laid down in the Montagu-Chelmsford Report are not convincing and not based on equity, and

(2) that this Council urges—

(a) that as the basis of division the whole of the total amount of all taxation, including Customs and Income-tax, raised in any particular province should for the present be made provincial, and

(*ii*) that in case of doubt as to the proper apportionment of any source of taxation in future, *e.g.*, Customs, steps be taken for ascertaining the facts so that they may be placed before the first Statutory Commission,

(*iii*) This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that immediate steps be taken to telegraph to the Government of India, the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India and the Joint Select Committee of Parliament that this Council places on record its protest against the proposed sliding scale of contributions imposing a contribution of 19 per cent of the total deficit of the Government of India in the seventh year, so far as it affects Bengal,—

(*a*) as being opposed to the considerations laid down in the Montagu-Chelmsford Report for maintaining a uniform scale of contributions pending its revision by the Statutory Commission, and

(*b*) the amount being higher than the amount which should be levied from Bengal on any equitable distribution of the burden."

The telegraphic report of the proposals of that Committee gave us hope that Bengal may get one-fourth share of the income from income-tax; it was found to be chimerical when the final proposals, as embodied in the rules, were published. The Committee only made one-fourth of the additional income over and above the income from the year 1920-21 from income-tax provincial. This was certainly no benefit. The Committee, however, recognised the peculiar financial difficulty of Bengal and commended it strongly to the special consideration of the Government of India. The Government of India have, however, not yet thought fit to make any concession on the point, and pending the consideration of the whole question I think it is our duty to press on the Government of India and see what concession is made by them.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I desire to congratulate the hon'ble mover of this resolution on his sagacity and foresight in placing this resolution before the House at this stage. Babu Surendra Nath Ray was my comrade in arms in the fight before the Meston Committee. With the help of the members of the old Budget Sub-Committee and with the support of some of the important associations of this town—associations which stood for the Reforms—the British Indian Association, the National Liberal League, the Indian Association, the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, the Mahajan Sabha, the Marwari Chamber of Commerce and perhaps one or two other associations, he and I succeeded in inducing the Meston Committee to provincialise

revenue from general stamps, which means, roughly speaking, a gross increase of about Rs. 1 crore 10 lakhs to our province. We fought strenuously for further justice to our province but we failed. In this fight we had the whole-hearted support of the old Government and specially of the Finance Department of that Government, and I take this opportunity of acknowledging our gratefulness to the old Government and specially to its Finance Department.

After the award of the Meston Committee the matter was reconsidered by the Joint Parliamentary Select Committee, and that Committee by its second report modified the award of the Meston Committee on certain points. One of the suggested modifications is the subject-matter of this resolution.

Sir, I feel that it is hardly necessary for me to enter into any details to support the justice of our case. The justice of our case has been acknowledged by the highest authority in the British constitution and the recommendation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee sanctioned by the mother of Parliaments is binding on all parties concerned. It is binding on us, it is binding on all the provinces, it is binding on the Government of India and it is binding on the Secretary of State. I refrain therefore from tiring the patience of this House by entering into facts and figures, but I may be permitted to mention that on another occasion I had gone elaborately into those facts and figures and published them before the world. The correctness of those facts and figures so published has not hitherto been challenged either by the other provinces or by the Government of India. But, as I have said, taking my stand as I do on the binding nature of the recommendation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, it is unnecessary to enter into those facts and figures over again.

But before I proceed further I must say that to my mind the responsibility of the financial injustice to Bengal lies more with the Government of India than the Meston Committee. I may tell this House that as a member of the Budget Sub-Committee I came to know that before the arrival of the Meston Committee in India the Government of India called a conference of Provincial Secretaries, and, after hearing the case of each provincial Government from those Secretaries, fixed upon a certain figure as the legitimate expenses of each province. In that conference, in spite of the strong protest of the representative of our Government, Mr. Payne, the Government of India fixed upon Rs. 7 crores 91 lakhs and 55 thousand as the legitimate expenses of our province. Within about four months from the date of the sitting of the provincial conference and almost about the time when Lord Meston's Committee was holding its sittings, the same Government of India came to the conclusion that Rs. 9 crores and 3 lakhs was our legitimate expense. This they did by accepting the Budget estimate for the year 1920-21. I feel therefore that I cannot blame the Meston Committee so much of they accepted Rs. 7 crores 91 lakhs and 55 thousand as our legitimate

provincial expense. But I am afraid, I must say, that in any view of the matter the Government of India was guilty of great inconsistency. Further, during the war period our province played the game and kept down its expense as far as possible. The estimated Budget expenditure of Bombay, with its population of about 18 millions, was accepted in the year 1919-20 at Rs. 10 crores and 52 lakhs. But that of Bengal in the same year was accepted at Rs. 7 crores 77 lakhs and 12 thousand. I feel that I am justified in saying that the responsibility of this injustice lies very greatly with the Government of India.

Now, gentlemen, I have already stated that the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee is binding on all parties concerned. Binding on every authority who derive their power from the British Parliament. As one responsible to the Council, and through the Council to the people of Bengal, I venture to assert once more with the utmost respect that if any authority, however high, tries to ignore or to explain away this binding award, I feel it would be my clear duty and your clear duty too and the clear duty of that section of the public of Bengal who should stand out for the success of the Reforms, to take such steps in the matter as they think proper. I deem that it would be our duty to start a movement to get this injustice remedied by all legitimate means at our command. It will be our duty to go from town to town, from village to village, and to tell our people the story of this injustice and to so arrange matters that Bengal as one man will put forth all its efforts to remedy this injustice. But, let me warn you of one thing, let not our movement degenerate into an agitation. Let us conduct our movement with moderation, with sobriety and with earnestness, and let us remember that the enemies of reform are on the alert. Let us remember in the conduct of our movement that forces of disorder are not wanting. Let us take every care not to add to the volume of bitterness, but let us at the same time proceed with our movement with firmness of purpose and determination of action. Let us represent our case respectfully to the higher authorities, and if we do not succeed, I for one would advise you to arrange for a deputation to England later on to represent our case before the British Parliament and the British public.

The PRESIDENT called upon Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur to speak, and when the Rai Bahadur proceeded to read out his speech Colonel Pugh rose to a point of order.

Colonel A. J. PUGH: Is a member allowed to read written speeches?

The PRESIDENT: I have considered the matter and I think that as the rules stand I cannot prevent members reading their speeches.

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: I have great pleasure in supporting this resolution and commending it to the House. I feel that our province has not been justly treated by the financial readjustment as recommended by Lord Meston's Committee. I do not desire to

enter into the question as to whether the Government of India or Lord Meston's Committee is responsible for this injustice. It is enough for my present purpose to state that the Joint Parliamentary Committee recognises the peculiar financial difficulties of our province and has made the recommendation quoted in the resolution. That Committee, therefore, has upset the award of Lord Meston's Committee to that extent. I do not propose to discuss the other point on which the award of Lord Meston's Committee has been upset by the Joint Parliamentary Committee, but that the decision of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, as the Hon'ble Mr. Mitter said, is binding on all parties concerned—binding on us, binding on the Government of India and binding on other Indian provinces. We, the people of Bengal, expected prompter action on the part of the Government of India in giving effect to this recommendation. But so far we have been disappointed. I hope and trust the Government of India will not ignore this binding recommendation any longer. The air is thick with forebodings of future financial troubles in Bengal. I do not propose to enter into any detailed examination as to the financial position of my province, for I feel it will be premature on my part to do so. I realise that when the Budget will be placed before us, I shall be in a better position to make useful observations on this question, but assuming for the purposes of my speech that the financial position of my province is not so bad as some enemies of the Reforms try to make out, I feel I am rightly entitled to claim financial justice for my province. It appears from the Civil estimates of 1919-20 that the contributions to the Government of India from our province under the heads of Customs and Income-tax are several times more than those of all the other provinces and higher than that of Bombay. In Customs the contribution of Bengal according to the Budget estimates of 1919-20 was Rs. 8 crores 64 lakhs and odd, of Madras only Rs. 1 crore 33 lakhs and odd, of the United Provinces only Rs. 4 lakhs and 50 thousand, of Bihar and Orissa only Rs. 2 thousand and the Central Provinces only Rs. 7 lakhs, and finally that of Bombay Rs. 7 crores 99 lakhs and odd. In Income-tax and Excess-profits duty the contribution of our province according to the Budget estimates of the same year and on the basis of the Meston Committee's award was Rs. 8 crores 52 lakhs and odd, of Madras Rs. 1 crore 21 lakhs and odd, of the United Provinces Rs. 82 lakhs and odd, of Bihar and Orissa Rs. 27 lakhs and odd, of the Central Provinces Rs. 21 lakhs and odd, and finally that of Bombay Rs. 7 crores 24 lakhs and odd. I realise that it may be said that although these amounts are levied within the limits of the aforesaid provinces, yet a portion of the actual contribution comes indirectly from some of the other provinces and Native States. For example, it is well known that Calcutta is the port not only for our province but also for several other provinces and for a number of Native States as well. The same argument, however, justly applies to the ports of Madras, Bombay

or Karachi and various other minor ports we have in India. But if certain well-known facts and available figures relating to local consumption be properly examined—I do not propose to tire the patience of the House by entering into a detailed examination of these facts and figures—it will appear that the duties levied on the local consumption of Bengal, if compared with the local consumption of other provinces, will be much higher than those of the latter.

A similar argument can be put forward with regard to Income-tax and Excess-profits duty. It may be said that the income-tax levied from the head office in Calcutta includes profits partly earned, say, in the coal mines of Bihar or the tea gardens in Assam. The same argument, however, applies equally to places like Bombay, Madras, Nagpur, Karachi or Cawnpore, but I understand from a representation submitted by the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter on behalf of the National Liberal League that if the figures relating to Bengal be examined it will appear that more than 80 per cent. of the total income-tax levied within the province of Bengal is realised solely from local incomes. It will appear, therefore, that the contribution in income-tax in our province is much higher than that of the other provinces.

I feel it is unjust that all the taxes realised from the richer section of our community here should go towards meeting the Imperial necessities and Bengal should be left stranded with taxes realised mainly from the poor. It has been said by some critics that the fault, if any, is of Bengal's, for Bengal is permanently settled, but those critics forget that for the permanent settlement of Bengal the people of Bengal were not responsible. Those critics forget that, but for the permanent settlement of Bengal, perhaps it would have been difficult for the East India Company to bring order out of chaos as regards the rest of India and it would perhaps have been impossible in those early days of unsettled financial conditions to extend British sway over the rest of India. Those critics forget that the highest authority within the British Empire has pledged itself to uphold the permanent settlement. Those critics also forget that during the century and a quarter that has elapsed since Lord Cornwallis took the statesmanlike action with regard to the permanent settlement of Bengal various changes, economic and social, have taken place and, apart from the question of this sacred pledge and apart from the question of disturbing vested interests any attempt to unsettle the permanent settlement will disturb society and the economic condition of Bengal to such a degree that the light-hearted critics themselves will be the first to cry "halt". Those critics also forget that it is perhaps due to the permanent settlement that it has been possible for Bengal to contribute so handsomely in income-tax, in excess-profits duty and in customs duty.

Sir, I feel that the proposition before the House is so just that I need not take up any more time in pleading the cause, and I hope and trust

that the whole House will unanimously adopt the resolution which has been placed before it.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr: As the Member responsible for the finances of the Government of Bengal I naturally welcome any help that may appear to be forthcoming in the direction of improving the financial position, and I hope that the Council will not think that I am wanting in proper feeling, if I say that I should have been more grateful if this question had been raised after the presentation of the Budget instead of to-day. I say this because I feel very strongly that neither the Council nor the Finance Department are in a position to deal with this important matter adequately and effectively until they know exactly what the financial position of the Presidency is, and that they cannot know it until they have had an opportunity of studying the Budget which will be presented on the 21st February. So far as the Council is concerned, the desire to discuss the matter at once is excused by the very widespread interest which has been aroused both in this Council and outside it. But so far as I am concerned, I am very much hampered in dealing with this question to-day by the fact that our Budget is not ready. I cannot anticipate to-day the Budget Statement which I shall make 10 days hence. Our figures are not yet ready and it will take Mr. Marr and myself all our time to get them ready within the next 10 days. However, we shall do our best and our desire is then to present to the Council a reasoned statement of the financial position, covering not only our annual income from the sources which have been made available to us but also our balances, and most important of all, the new borrowing powers which have been conferred upon us under this Reforms Scheme. That is all that I can say to-day in regard to the Budget position, and I am sure the Council will see that we shall be in a very much stronger position to deal with this matter when the Budget figures have been fully worked out than we are to-day. Owing to the difficulties which I have just described it is impossible for me to say very much on this resolution as it stands, but I hope what I shall say briefly will give a certain amount of comfort to the Council. I will not go into the past history of the case or the action taken by the late Government of Bengal. That has been sufficiently dealt with by the previous speaker and by my friend the Hon'ble Mr. Mitter and many of the protests which were made by the late Government of Bengal have been published and are familiar to the members of this Council. I would only say that when the present Government came into being on the 3rd of January, the first step they took was to review the financial position. This was discussed by His Excellency with the Members of Council and Ministers, and as a result we submitted a representation to the Government of India about the middle of last month. On that representation the Government of India have not yet passed any orders, and it is therefore impossible for me to go into the details of that subject at present. This resolution,

if it is passed by the Council—and I am sure it will be—will help to strengthen the representation which we have already submitted to the Government of India, and from that point of view I need hardly say that I welcome the resolution. We shall take steps to communicate it immediately to the Government of India, so that they may be able to take it into consideration when they are considering the representation which we have already submitted to them. I have no doubt that after the Council sees the Budget figures and becomes aware of the precise financial position, they may be able to strengthen our case and then their help and guidance will be given in a more effective form. I do not think that there is anything more that I can usefully say to-day. I trust that the Council will not feel that in dealing briefly with the matter, as I am doing, I am underrating its importance or underrating the sentiments of the Council on this question. I only feel that both the Council and myself will be in a better position after the Budget is ready to deal with this matter than we are at present.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I rise to support the resolution. Although I am not in a position to supply figures, I can say that financially we are in a worse position than the other presidencies. I am grateful to you, Sir, for allowing us to raise this question in this first sitting of the Council. You have perhaps observed how pressed we are for consideration of financial difficulties and how the members of this Council have been trying to effect retrenchments in several establishments. Though we were very favourably considered by the Joint Committee of both the Houses of Parliament, Lord Meston's Committee upset the whole thing and we are all smarting under a feeling of discontent on account of the unfavourable consideration shown to Bengal in spite of the fact that Bengal contributes to the Imperial exchequer the largest amount.

I take this opportunity of acknowledging my gratefulness to our worthy Minister, the Hon'ble Mr. Mitter, who on this occasion has come forward with valuable advice and co-operation in fighting our battle, if necessary, in England. This is as it should be. In regard to Reserved subjects, our Ministers should be in the position of an ordinary member of the Council and they should take the lead in opposing Government. We require a special concession from the Government of India in respect of our financial position, and without taking up much of the time of the Council I support the movement and I hope that it will be accepted without any dissent.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I desire to associate myself heartily with this resolution. I cannot say that the Government of India has been ungenerous. Probably the Government of India were in a difficult position themselves, but perhaps we are in a worse position, and that being so, the Government of India ought to behave with the generosity which the Supreme Government might be expected

to show towards us. The Government of India know fully well our difficulties. They were presented to that Government by our representative, Mr. Payne, many many months ago. At that time the Government of India recognised that our expenditure was Rs. 7 crores and 55 lakhs. Four months afterwards the Government found that our expenditure was Rs. 9 crores and 3 lakhs. Well, our expenditure has grown and that fact has to be borne in mind, and in view of the peculiar financial position of Bengal the Joint Committee recommended that special consideration should be shown to this province. Our contention—the contention of this Legislative Council as well as that of Government and the contention of the people—is that this special consideration has not been shown to us. The Government of India have given us nothing except advice, while we wanted sympathetic consideration.

My hon'ble friend Mr. Mitter pointed to the desirability of sending a deputation to England for the purpose of ventilating this matter before the British Parliament. Well, Sir, I have been associated with four deputations to England ever since 1890. I have been backwards and forwards with these deputations. We may safely place absolute, complete and sure confidence upon the justice-loving instincts of the British democracy and on their representatives, the mother of Parliaments. I do not know whether that is the sense of this Council, but if we could send a properly constituted deputation I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that the fullest measure of justice will be done to us and that effect will be given to the recommendations of the Joint Committee in respect of the special consideration which they asked the Government of India to show to us.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I am grateful to Government for having practically accepted this resolution. We, the members of the old Council as well as this Council, have been fighting over this question for more than a year, but unfortunately we received no just treatment at the hands either of the Meston Committee or the Government of India. But nevertheless we shall carry on our fight, whether it be with the Government of India or in the Council of the Secretary of State. This is all that I have to say in reply.

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: I am sorry that I did not make myself clear. The Government have accepted, not practically accepted it, and it will be forwarded to the Government of India for their consideration.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I am thankful to Government for having accepted my resolution.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Abolition of Commissionerships.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: "This Council recommends to the Government that the posts and offices of the Divisional

Commissioners should be abolished and that early steps should be taken to bring about the said abolition."

In view of the resolution which stands in my name, No. 13 in the list, which is more comprehensive, I beg leave to withdraw this resolution for the present because I think spasmodic efforts of retrenchment would not be of much use.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Reduction of Ministers.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "This Council recommends to the Government that His Excellency the Governor be approached to reduce the number of Ministers to two."

I do not think that there is any necessity for making a long speech on this subject, as I have already discussed it in connection with the resolution about the reduction of the number of Executive Councillors. Both are of the same nature and the same principle is involved in them. It is in fact a corollary to the question that has already been decided by this House, namely, that the number of Executive Councillors should be reduced to two. If we take into consideration the work entrusted to the Executive Councillors and the Ministers I do not think the work of the Ministers would be heavier than that of the Executive Councillors. If that be true, then I think the number of Ministers must also be reduced to two. The only ground upon which I press my resolution is that there is not sufficient work for three Ministers. In my analysis of the portfolios I tried to show that the work that used to be done by the Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur alone has been now distributed between one Executive Councillor and two Ministers, and I think the Nawab Sahib has got not more than half the work done by Mr. Cumming and afterwards by Sir C. Stevenson-Moore. I maintain that utmost economy is necessary. We require money very badly for making due provision for vocational education, for the rapid spread of primary education, for the development of industry and agriculture and for making proper provision for agricultural education, for making better provision for medical relief, for taking sanitary measures for the restoration of the natural drainage of the country and for providing good drinking water in the rural areas. So we cannot afford to pay much and we cannot spend much over these appointments; we must try to see that the number of appointments made is exactly the number that is absolutely necessary for the discharge of duties entrusted to them.

There is another aspect of the question; we find that as soon as these ministerial appointments are made we lose the services of the Ministers for the popular cause even in case of reserved subjects. They are not in a position to side with us and go against Government when a division is called for. These appointments are made from among the leaders

f the public and I think their services are more required on the popu- r side than on the ministerial bench. We saw on two previous days hat though the Ministers had some sympathy with us they were bliged to vote for Government Though under the law there is a pro- ision that they can reserve their votes, they did not do so. That a thing which we deplore, and I think the more we can keep their ervices for the popular cause the better for us If we say that these gh salaried posts, I mean those of the Members, should be reduced, I not see how we can make a differential treatment in the case of the inisters. I may be permitted to refer to what has been done in the nited Provinces of Agra and Oudh If they can manage their work, hich is not less than that of Bengal, with two Ministers and two Execu- ve Councillors, I do not understand why Bengal should not be able to the same Some alarming note has been sounded that if the number Ministers be reduced it may be that a certain community may not have eir representative in the Government It has never been my tention or of anybody else in this House that one particular com- unity should take an advantage over another I may assure the ouse that I will not be in the least sorry if two Muhammadan members ere appointed on the ministerial bench Men like Sir Abd-ur-Rahim joy the confidence of all communities If any one enjoys the con- fence of the House he is entitled to a seat on the ministerial bench hatever community he may belong to I may assure the House that have not brought forward this resolution in order to do any injury to y particular individual, but, as I have explained before, it is only the sake of economy that this question has been raised I believe at strict obedience to the voice of patriotic conscience should be the iding principle of the House The retention of a large number of ese high salaried posts under Government will have a demoralising fect upon our leaders, and on this ground also I am opposed to any xiety in the appointment of Ministers I do not wish to detain the ouncil any longer, as the various arguments in favour of this resolution ere put forward in connection with a resolution which was accepted the Council the other day by a large majority I now commend the solution to the acceptance of the House

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: On the last occasion when my friend oved for reduction in the number of Members of the Executive ouncil I had the honour to support his motion Even to-day I would t have hesitated to extend my hand of fellowship to him if I ought that I should be serving the best interests of my country. I lly share the anxiety of my friend to effect substantial reduction in e cost of the administration of the country, and I believe there is no nsible man in the whole of Bengal who would not approve of the inciple of economy underlying the proposition before us. But, Sir, also believe that no sensible man would like for the sake of false onomy to impair the efficiency of the administration Sir, when we

take into consideration the history of the various reforms that have been introduced into the country we find that some extra hands are always added and these reforms being of a substantial character it seems to me that the changes effected are also to some extent bigger, and I remember in this very hall the veteran leader of the people, Babu Ambica Charan Mazumdar while criticising the creation of a new province under a Lieutenant-Governor, said that it seemed to be the desire of Government to create a galaxy of Lieutenant-Governors. It is quite possible that some of my countrymen may say also with some justification that what "dazzled and dazed them in this reform is the galaxy of the Executive Councillors and Ministers. But as I have said, we should remember that as we are on the threshold of obtaining full responsible government we should see that the various complex questions that will arise before us should have persons to guide them through.

Sir, the immensity of the task set before us demands that we should have persons at the helm who should give their best attention to all matters that have been entrusted to their charge. We know also that while the Members of the Executive Council have been entrusted with certain subjects, the Ministers have been entrusted, to my mind, with more important subjects, and it is on the better working of these subjects that the salvation of the country depends. When you take into consideration the question of agriculture and industry you cannot but come to the conclusion that this part of the duty of Government, which has not been properly attended to, should be taken up immediately and the best attention should be given to it. The Ministers ought to give their devoted attention to the uplifting of the agriculturists, who form the backbone of the country and to the starting of industries, which will enable our countrymen to earn better wages and to live well. If we are able to uplift our countrymen, and if we are able to give free and compulsory education to our people in such a way that they will be in a position within as short a time as possible to feel and to think for themselves and to realise their own rights and responsibilities, certainly we shall have attained the goal that we have set before us. One of the most important departments that have been placed with the Ministers is Local Self-Government, and who would not expect that the Minister in charge of it should so work the Act and so direct the institutions that are entrusted to his charge that we may be able to show even to adverse critics that we are capable of governing ourselves? If we cut down the number of these Ministers, naturally we put greater strain on those who remain and they will not be able to discharge their duties as they ought to and in a way they are expected to. Formerly the Members of the Executive Council and other officials were not responsible to us, but what do you find at the present moment? Ministers are wholly and solely responsible to us and it is to us that they look for success and guidance, and at this stage, when we are on the threshold of attaining

much better things, we should be very cautious as to how we modify the present arrangement. The majority of the members here, who have no idea of the details of the administration of the country and do not know how matters are supervised and controlled, would agree that we require a certain amount of time to study these matters to be in a position to decide one way or the other. If my hon'ble friend will look at the agenda paper he will find that a motion stands in the name of Mr. D. C. Ghose, wherein it is proposed that small committees should be formed with respect to all the departments to find out what economy could be effected in them. Should we not wait and see whether economy can be effected in the departments under the Ministers as well? In matters like these when we find that the greatest interest of the country is at stake we should be very cautious in moving onward. I hope my friend who is a gentleman of such mature age and experience will give his consideration to the matter and, if he arrives at the conclusion that it would not be wise to press his resolution immediately, he may wait for some time to enable us to arrive at the conclusion whether we should allow the number of Ministers to stand as it is or cut it down to two. We are here certainly in order to do what is right and we ought to do what is right. There is an old proverb that what is done in haste is repented at leisure, so I hope my friend will not ask us to do things in haste.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: As regards this resolution, which has been moved by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, I feel it incumbent upon us to speak out what we actually feel. Only the day before yesterday, barely 48 hours ago, on the motion of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri this Council by a large majority has accepted a resolution, which must be vividly in the memory of all of us. I was one of those who supported that resolution, and that resolution emphatically put it down that the number of Executive Councillors should be reduced to two. Sir, what I feel and some of my friends also do feel, is that after the passing of that resolution it is incumbent upon us to say what our opinion is about the number of Ministers. It is only proper that the same mover has brought before us this proposal for the reduction of the Ministers to two. I feel that it is eminently proper and reasonable. The mover has very aptly pointed out how the present resolution is a corollary to the one already passed. It is certainly a corollary to that. We have here now four Executive Councillors and when they are conjointly sitting with three Ministers and the Governor, the question of majority and minority need not be very seriously discussed, for there would be three Europeans, taking the Governor, and the rest Indians. But when our resolution just passed, is given effect to, and I presume it will be, what would be the result? Very likely, Sir, if I have understood correctly, the four Executive Councillors will be reduced to two—one would be an Indian and another a European. That being so, what would be the proportion of Indians and Europeans in

the Executive Council conjointly with the Ministers? If the proposal now before us be given effect to, then there will be on the side of the Ministers two Indians and on the side of the Executive Council two Europeans, including the Governor, and one Indian. That will make three Indians against two Europeans. Sir, I am one of those certainly who would be very happy if the whole administration is run by my own countrymen, but that is no reason why we should not remember that we must do justice to others also. If we want that the number of Executive Councillors should be reduced, it is only fair that we shall be satisfied with a less number of Ministers also. I feel, Sir, that if we are to seek justice, we cannot stand before the public or Government or any body in the world and say that these Ministers must continue but the Executive Councillors must be reduced. It has been said here that there would not be sufficient work for these Ministers. I have come to the Council only recently, and I am not very familiar with the details of the Government administration, but after hearing what has been said by the mover of the resolution I am disposed to think that, if the number of Ministers be reduced to two, there is no likelihood of work suffering. Our Ministers are new men, but they are all intelligent men. They have been selected from amongst 113 men who have been returned here from different parts of Bengal, and the Government in making the selection have certainly selected the best of the lot. I do not think anybody can take the slightest exception to the selection of Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea. Then my friend, Mr. P. C. Mitter, for whom I have the highest respect—

The PRESIDENT: Order! Order! We are not discussing the individual merits of the Ministers.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I would only say that the present selection has satisfied us all, but the point is whether we are to reduce the number from three to two or not. What strikes me is that, if Government have made the wisest selection from amongst those who have been elected and if the two best men are selected, then the work will not suffer. That is the reason, Sir, why I say that if we are to do justice to all and to be fair and consistent, we must be reducing also the number of Ministers so that it may not be said that these elected members are selfish. If we reduce the number of Executive Councillors we must reduce that of Ministers also.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I am sorry I have to oppose this resolution. Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri has told us that it is after due deliberation that he has sent in this resolution to the Council, but I see that he could not have done so. It is in an inauspicious moment that he sent in this resolution. This is like one of those resolutions in the last Council which was withdrawn, and another gentleman took it up, and when we are going to have an Act introduced in Calcutta.

t was on the lines of this resolution, he only saw the error of his ways after sending in his resolution. He must know that the more people are associated with the Government of the country, the better for the ountry and the better for us. We have now only three Ministers; he orgets, as well as his supporter, Dr Haridhan Dutt, that in future here will be no Member of the Executive Council, and that we shall have more Ministers and there will not be any European element. Others may come in as Ministers but not as Members of the Executive Council, and the Executive Council will be a thing of the past The portfolios in charge of the Ministers are very important portfolios—Local Self-Government, Medical and Sanitation, etc ; all these are in he hands of one man, and are sufficient for one man Then we have got Education and Registration in the hands of another Minister; the third Minister, my friend the Hon'ble Nawab Sayid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, s in charge of very important departments; he is in charge of Industries, Engineering and other departments, and Agriculture All these Ministers are in charge of very important departments and have very great powers, and it is absolutely necessary that the work of the administration should be carried on by the leaders of the people and not by the officials My contention is that if instead of having three Ministers we have four Ministers and one Member of the Executive Council, that would have been far better My friend, Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq, has just said that we ought not to be supporters of false economy, that is exactly so, because that will impair the efficiency of he administration. The work will have to be done satisfactorily There is no logic in the argument that because the number of the Executive Council has been reduced we should reduce the number of Ministers.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I extremely regret that in spite of my hearty sympathy with the objects that Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri has in view, I cannot bring myself to support this resolution My regret is all the greater that I find myself in opposition to one whose ardent patriotism and sober judgment I have always admired, but whose decision in bringing forward this particular topic for discussion I cannot but sincerely deplore.

Sir, as a survivor of the old Council that has now ceased to be, I hope my colleagues will grant me a little indulgence if I try to put before he House certain matters for consideration which must not be lost sight of in arriving at a decision on the very important question before us I know there are many in this House who have worked in various spheres of public activity, but I hope they will pardon me if I say that hey are new to the surroundings of this House and the work that now ies before them, and, if I venture to speak to them somewhat like an old navigator who may claim to know something of the troubles of navigation n unknown waters, and to be able to point a finger of caution at unseen dangers that may lie ahead.

Sir, I will proceed to state very briefly the reasons which have led me to oppose this resolution. First and foremost we ought always to remember that there is a fundamental difference between a Member of the Executive Council and a popular Minister. This point has been emphasised by the Ministers themselves in several of their public addresses, and I do not think I ought to labour the point. It will be remembered that whereas a Member of the Executive Council is a permanent official, a popular Minister is not. The Member of the Executive Council is not responsible to us, he is responsible to the Secretary of State; the popular Minister is responsible to the Legislative Council; therefore it follows that, if we have been serious in recommending that the number of the Members of the Executive Council should be reduced, it is all to our advantage that there should be a large number of popular Ministers, so that the members of Government who are responsible to this Council may be in a very substantial majority.

Secondly, Sir, we have to remember the onerous duties which have been thrown upon the Ministers. I do not for a moment question their fitness to face the duties that have been entrusted to them, but I can say without any disrespect to them they are new to the duties of their office. All other things being equal, a Member of the Executive Council has got at least this advantage, that he has got a number of years' training which enables him to get through his work far more quickly and far more effectively than a popular Minister, who enters upon his duties without practically any previous experience. If that is so, if the number of subjects that have been reserved be equal to the number of subjects transferred, I would say that if the number of Executive Councillors be two, the number of popular Ministers ought to be greater.

Thirdly, we have to remember that in England the subjects are equal in number or of equal importance. Here the fact is quite the other way. The departments that have been transferred to popular control are amongst the most important of the departments of the administration. Take the case of Local Self-Government, Education, Agriculture, Co-operative Credit. Not to speak of the intricacies and details of the administration, each of these subjects wants, almost at least, limitless expansion. We have therefore to remember that the popular Ministers have really got far more important work to do than the Members of the Executive Council.

Then there is the question of effecting economy. Now, there is a consensus of opinion among the majority of the members of this House that the salaries of the Ministers ought to be reduced. We have not considered this question yet, but, as far as I have been able to gather, the majority seem to be of opinion that the salary is too high——

The PRESIDENT: Order! Order! We are not discussing that question now.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: Well, Sir, I was merely touching hat point by way of remark. I was only making a passing reference lowever, I will not refer to it. If there is a reduction in the salary, ve can really utilise the amount saved in retaining the services of nother Minister.

Lastly, there comes a question which I think I ought to refer to efore I sit down, and it is this: The expansion of the Legislative Coun- il has also added to the work that will be ordinarily thrown on the opular Ministers. We are not considering the case of the Members of he other half of the Government, but so far as the Ministers are con- erned, their case ought to be considered as a special one. In the former 'ouncil, I remember that the Members of the Executive Council had to eep themselves back from their ordinary work to attend Council work hich interfered very much with the ordinary work of the adminis- ration. In the present Council of 101 members, if all of us try to put orth our activities and send in resolutions on an average of two per head, llowing two hours for each resolution it will amount to 404 hours, and iking six working hours a day, it will take us two or three months to nish. But I do not know whether this contingency will ever arise, ut that has got to be remembered. All things considered, it is there- ore apparent that the burden thrown upon the popular Ministers is not t all light, and if this is so, I am not at all sure whether the number ree is at all sufficient for the purpose of efficient administration. I m rather of opinion that, if possible and if economy can be effected, ie number might be usefully increased.

There is another point. There are three gentlemen now occupying ie position of Minister. If one is removed, the question may arise - ho is to go? We should not now consider whether we should allow ie present Ministers to continue in the next elected Council. We ight consider when the next Council is formed whether the number hould be reduced by one or increased by one. Very regretfully, Sir, feel constrained to oppose this resolution.

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the lon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): The arguments which I have to put orward are rather analogous to those which I laid before the Council nly a day or so ago, and I do not propose to speak at length in onnection with the present resolution. This is not because I attach ss importance to the number of Ministers than to the matter of the umber of Executive Councillors. Far from it; both questions are of qual and paramount importance to the Government as a whole, but I ay possibly, having already spoken on this similar subject before, be ble to take for granted some of the arguments which I then elaborated.

There is, however, one particular aspect of this resolution upon hich it is incumbent upon me to speak, and that is that under section

52 of the Government of India Act, the appointment of Ministers is the personal act of the Governor, and unfortunately, as this Council is now constituted, we have not the advantage of hearing the Governor in defence of his own actions. In his absence it is perhaps more incumbent upon me to say a word or two in respect of anything which has been done by him individually.

Now, Sir, as in the case of the Members of the Executive Council, my general point is that this matter of the number of Ministers was equally not decided on the votes of prejudiced persons, but was the outcome of protracted deliberations and the decision of the highest authority which dealt with the whole question of reforms. It will be remembered that, particularly in connection with the recent reforms, the desire was expressed in many quarters that far more matters of detail should be pronounced upon by the British Parliament than had been the case in connection with previous changes. In accordance with that wish, many matters of detail were laid before Parliament through the medium of the Joint Committee; that being so, it is somewhat inconsistent to cavil at the decision of the final authority which was selected in response to the wishes of so many. In respect to Ministers the pronouncement of the Joint Committee was that "the committee are of opinion that in no province should the number of Ministers be less than two; in some provinces more will be required." "Some provinces" are, obviously, the more important provinces. We are all here agreed that Bengal is the most important province in India, though to soothe the susceptibilities of our neighbours, we may say it is among the most important provinces in India. That being so, that is how we derived the figure 3 which was fixed upon by the Governor as the number he would appoint under the powers given to him.

Apart from that general argument of the weight attaching to high authority, there is the subsidiary argument as to whether in the light of the work to be done this total of three is justified. The Council is aware of the important departments which have been entrusted to the Ministers. Cany anybody question that the Minister who will deal with the report of the University Commission, that the Minister who will deal with the question of the public health of the province and the new constitution of the Calcutta Corporation, that the Minister who will deal with stimulating of the Departments of Agriculture and Industries is going to have his time fully occupied?

Another point which I have referred to before and which Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq has referred to again is the necessary and inevitable advantage which an official has over a non-official in dealing quickly with official business. But in the case of Ministers there is another factor. It is obvious that the longer an individual is in office the more he becomes conversant with the work placed before him. A Minister

holds his appointment for three years in one term, although if he is re-elected—as we hope will be the case with those who have been so well chosen in the first instance—the appointment may be for three years longer. But even that is far shorter than an official life-time. A local newspaper in a recent issue has further been pleased to call the office of a Minister precarious. It is precarious to the extent that his tenure lacks the continuity of the tenure of a Member of the Executive Council, therefore in so far as the term of office of a Minister may be shorter, it is not reasonable to expect from him the same outturn of work which might have been expected from a Member.

It was of interest to hear the arguments in favour of the resolution, but I must confess that I have been at some loss to appreciate what these are. We have had the old cry of economy, but the chief argument which seems to weigh with some speakers seems to be a desire for artistic symmetry in the number of Members of the Executive Council and the number of Ministers. The idea seems to be that since a resolution was moved the day before yesterday, that the number of the Executive Council should be two, therefore by symmetry, the Ministers also should number two. But that argument of symmetry and numerical equality has never been applied in respect of the past Government and does not apply even now. The appropriate total on either side should be judged in the work to be done and not on the argument of equality and symmetrical balance. I would ask the Council to reject the present proposal.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): I find myself in a somewhat difficult position as the resolution affects the ministerial bench and I am a Minister. We have an old English proverb which says: A man who pleads his own cause has a fool for his client.

But I venture to assert that the resolution will not affect me or my colleagues on the ministerial bench, it will affect our successors, and I am glad that I am able to plead the cause of future Ministers. I am proud that I am pleading the cause of responsible Government, for I feel that upon the efficiency of ministerial responsibility and ministerial work the whole future of responsible Government depends.

I desire to remind my friends, the elected members of this Council, who are keen for the success of responsible Government, that 10 years hence a Parliamentary Commission will sit to make an enquiry into the measure of our success or our unsuccess. If we come successfully out of that ordeal, the whole measure of responsible Government that has been promised will be given to us. If we fail, we will be sent back to where we were. Our only hope lies in the successful working of the Reforms Act. The Reforms Act provides that if in the course of the next 10 years a transferred subject is mismanaged, it will be open to the Governor to transfer it to the reserved side; therefore I venture to assert, with all the emphasis I can command, that we should do all we

can to see that the utmost efficiency is attained. That is a position which my friends, the elected members of this Council, should not lose sight of. I venture to think that if the number of Ministers is reduced to two, it will strike at the very root of efficiency, and if efficiency is destroyed the establishment of a full measure of responsible Government will not be effected. That is the proposition which I venture to lay down for your adoption.

My friend Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, has asserted that the work of the Members of the Executive Council is much heavier than the work of the Ministers. That may or may not be so. I can speak for myself and my colleagues that we are hard-worked enough. If I were to let you into the secrets of my prison house, I would say this. My friend on the left works from 7 in the morning right away till 11 at night. I myself am not strong or young enough to do that; I can only work from 7 in the morning till 7 in the evening. Is not that hard and strenuous work? If you add to the measure of that work you impair its efficiency. My friend says that we have not got the same quantity of work as the Members of the Executive Council; to that I would say that we are leading a sufficiently strenuous life.

The next point is that there is not sufficient work for us, and therefore some of us should be dismissed. Well, Sir, this is really a question of the reduction of establishment. I have been connected with administrative matters in various capacities for many years; I have been associated with the management of one of the greatest educational institutions in the country, I have been associated with the management of one of the biggest presses in Calcutta, and whenever the question of a reduction of establishment was brought before me, I instituted an inquiry to find out whether it was possible to make a reduction; but here without any investigation or inquiry this proposition is laid before us. We are told that we are to reduce the number of Ministers from three to two. I would say that there ought to be an inquiry before a proposition of this kind is brought forward for the acceptance of this House. But as a matter of fact, is there any ground so far, if you look at the question carefully, for reducing the number of Ministers from three to two? I hold in my hand a statement of the departments which have been made over to us. I find there are 19 departments divided among us. Five are given to me; six to my friend to the left and eight to the most junior member. And what are these departments? They are progressive departments which have to be developed and elaborated, and upon which the future of the country rests. Let me mention some of these departments. They are the Department of Local Self-Government, the Departments of Industries and Co-operative Credit, Education, Sanitation, Public Health, Public Works and others. In England, there is only one Minister for Local Self-Government. There is one Minister for Education only. But I may point out that I am in charge of three departments, two of which are Medical and Public Health, and another

Local Self-Government. I have, roughly speaking, about 150 municipalities and 25 district boards to control. And as if that is not enough, we have got Bills and projects of law, all of the first magnitude, to consider, which will be laid before this Council in due course. For instance, yesterday or the day before, I had the opportunity of referring to the proposed amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act, this has been before us for a period of two years; we have promised to take it up. The Bengal Municipal Act has also to be amended; it was first passed in 1884 and amended in 1894. Then we have got the Local Self-Government Act, which must also be amended. Does my friend the mover think that all this will not tax the energy and the strength of the Minister in charge of the department? Above all that I have got the Public Health Department, and there we have got the great problem of problems of Bengal—malarial fever, the ravages of which must be minimised. The beginnings of these great anti-malarial operations have been started under the fostering care of His Excellency the Governor. I am sure that my friends in the mufassal will feel the urgency and the magnitude of the task. Does it not need thought; does it not need careful elaboration?

Then, Sir, I have got the Medical Department. It seems to me, being in charge of these responsible departments, that if one Minister were to be reduced, some of the work would have to be divided between the other two. If I am reduced, then my friend will have to do some of the work. But it is absolutely impossible to add to the work of the portfolios which have been entrusted to us. Take, for example, the case of my friend, the Hon'ble Mr. Mitter. He has got Education and Registration and other important departments, to which I need not refer at present. Education itself is a vast problem, and it will become a great department when the changes recommended in the Report of the Calcutta University Commission are given effect to, and a Bill will have to be introduced. Further, the education problem is of enormous importance in view of recent events to which I need not refer.

Then, as regards my friend, the Hon'ble Nawab Sahib, he is entrusted with Industries, Agriculture, Excise, Fisheries and so on; and we have got these nation-building departments and all these have been entrusted to the Ministers; and, mind you, that if the Ministers prove successful and equal to the task, you will ask after five years that more departments should be made over to them. Therefore, it seems to me, Sir, that it would be extremely unwise to reduce the number of Ministers to two; and this reduction will hamper them in their work and will also impair the efficiency of the administration upon which the prosperity, the happiness, and the contentment of this large province so largely depends.

Sir, I have been told by my friend, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, that it is desirable to reduce the number of Ministers to two, because the Ministers are really taken away from public life. Well, Sir, if that is so, that ought to be an argument in favour of the abolition of the whole

ministerial establishment, all of us having been taken away from public life. If that is so, this ministerial system ought to disappear altogether. I desire to tell my friends that we, as Ministers, are still in the front rank of public life, if I may say so without arrogance. We are not divorced from public life. I am the President of the Liberal League and the Secretary of the Indian Association. My friends also hold similar offices.

Sir, we have been told that this resolution is a corollary to the other proposition which was carried the other day. Well, it is a corollary in the sense that we would add to the work of the Executive Councillors by reducing the number to two, and to the work of the Ministers by reducing their number. You will overburden them and impair their efficiency. In that sense, it is a complete corollary as it will lead to the ruination of this great experiment.

One word more and I am done. I desire to say this: that we have been clamouring for the last 40 years for the highest appointments being thrown open to Indians, and for adding to the number of these appointments. Here three of the highest appointments have been given to us, and we say that we shall have only two. I ask you, is that consistent with the traditions which we have been accustomed to respect and even to honour? We have been clamouring to be associated with the administration of the country in its highest spheres and you now want to curtail the sphere of our activities in that direction. Therefore, I say, it would be fatal, it would be inconsistent with our traditions, it would be inconsistent with those patriotic sentiments which, I am perfectly certain, inspire the elected members of this Council, and I hope and trust that the Council will not accept this resolution.

Mr. H. A. STARK: I have nothing to add to what has been said by the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea and I would ask that a closure be now put.

Mr. H. BARTON: I am glad to notice a distinct change of attitude on the part of those members who so forcibly supported the resolution for a reduction in the number of the Executive Councillors. I do not think I am wrong in concluding that it is with the object of compensating for an error which they discovered too late and that if given the opportunities they would gladly retract from their first decision.

Sir, if there is one feature that stands out pre-eminently in the desire of the people for self-government it is the feeling that under old conditions, it was lacking those essentials which make for sound organisation and good government. From the very moment this Council has taken up the various resolutions, we have had flung at us the considerations of economy in a manner which indicates that we should blind our eyes to the large question of effective government. We have had very clearly put before the House, not only by those

who voted on the first question for a reduction in the number of Executive Councillors, but by those who supported this resolution, that the duties that will fall upon the Ministers will be very considerable, and I think that they have very forcibly put before the House what the ultimate position must be if we agree to the reduction of the number of Ministers. I beg to say that having put through the first resolution a very serious blunder has been committed, and if we put through the second one it will be a greater blunder and it would be murdering the Government instead of good government. I therefore oppose this resolution.

Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED: I regret that I cannot support the resolution. In doing so, I would request you to pause and consider why in the case of the appointment of Executive Councillors four members were appointed, and three on the side of Ministers. I do not know whether that is a cogent reason or not, but some of my friends have led me to believe that because Government was nervous that it might be outvoted by the Ministers, it thought fit to appoint four Executive Councillors. If that be the motive of the Government, what is it our duty to do? Is it by reduction or by addition that we do our duty? If it were in my hand, I would have the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur on the left of the presidential chair, and I am sure he would have headed the list of the Ministers and would have led them in a right direction. We also know that the onerous duties that the Ministers have to perform could not be performed if the number were reduced to two. I have been associated with some District Board work and I know something of Local Self-Government. In addition to the arduous duties which the non-official Chairmen of District Boards have to perform, other works are going to be added. The Sanitary Department has been opened and the improvement of public health is pending legislation. Many other things are coming up. I do not know whether we ourselves and the Minister in charge of Local Self-Government will be equal to the task. We know something of Agriculture and we know something of Education. Primary education has to be expanded. Several brains would have to be put together; and it is a problem now how the education of the masses may be expanded. So, on these various grounds, there is no necessity for reduction.

My friend, the mover, has said that we have lost our popular leaders by their taking up ministerial posts. It is true that we have lost them for a time. But they will have some experience in the innermost recesses of the administration, and we hope that after having gained greater experience they will come back to us and will be able to lead us. On these grounds, Sir, I oppose the motion.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: I move that the question be now put. (Cries of "No," "No.")

[The President decided that the discussion should continue.]

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: I rise to support this motion. Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri supported his motion by various arguments; but none of these arguments have been met by my friends who opposed it. The first gentleman who opposed this motion said: "The other day I supported the motion for the reduction of number of Executive Councillors, but I cannot extend my helping hand to-day." The reason put forward was that we should have some experience of this Council before we vote one way or the other. Then are we to understand that when he gave his vote for the reduction of number of the Executive Councillors he had some experience and within these 48 hours he has lost that experience? Sir, is that a reasonable ground for the non-reduction of the number of Ministers?

Then, Sir, we have heard with astonishment the speech of the President of the Provincial Conference held at Midnapore, who in his speech challenged the Government to show how reduction could be effected, and that gentleman in a very polite manner told us that not only there should be three Ministers but as many Ministers as possible. What are we to understand from that? We all know that when a boy passes the B.A. or the M.A. Examination his parents think that he will either be one day a Deputy Magistrate, or a Munsif or a Subordinate Judge, or will one day adorn a seat on the honourable bench of the High Court. I think that every one of us hopes that one day we may adorn the ministerial seats on the left hand of the Hon'ble the President.

We have heard Babu Surendra Nath Ray, who in opposing the motion put forward his reasons that our Ministers are new and that they ought to learn business properly, after which this question may be taken up. Then are we to understand that the Ministers are now serving the periods of their apprenticeship and after that period is over we may take up the question? But the term of a Minister's office is only three years, and before they are supposed to serve their period of apprenticeship out, their term of office will be over.

We have also heard the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea. He was pleased to oppose this motion on the ground that this sort of change should not be made without inquiry, as practically this is a question of retrenchment, but I beg to submit, Sir, that there is the patent fact that the work which used to be done by three Executive Councillors will be done by two Executive Councillors and two Ministers, and therefore the work of three officers will be divided amongst four.

Maulvi SHAH ABDUR RAUF: I cannot conscientiously support this resolution. I beg to remind you, Sir, and through you the members of this Council, that we are handling a very dangerous new machinery of government and the success of this new machinery depends on the success of the work of the Ministers; and this success is sure to bring better days in the administration of the country. Then, Sir,

he responsible and heavy task with which our Ministers are at present saddled, if not discharged properly, to the satisfaction of the people and to the satisfaction of the Government, will wreck the new machinery. I wonder, Sir, how can we expect better days in the future if the work of the Ministers be not successful? The position of the Ministers is quite peculiar; they are responsible to the people as well as to the Government. Greater attention and greater energy will have to be spent by them to administer the various departments with which they have been entrusted. Much has been said on the question of the reduction of the number of the Members of the Executive Council. But there is no reason why we should be led by that to request the Government to reduce the number of the Ministers. What we should have always in view is the better administration of the country; the betterment of the people whose representatives we profess ourselves to be. I think it will be simply suicidal to hinder the work of the Ministers, by asking two of them to perform the duties which are being at present done by three. On these grounds, I strongly oppose this motion, and I would ask my brother councillors to oppose the resolution, and I would ask the mover to withdraw it before it is set at naught by the whole House.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: I do not like to be a silent spectator in this debate, but I feel it my duty to say a few words as regards this resolution. I have carefully read the resolution and it seems to convey to my mind this fact, that at the present moment the Government have got the power of reducing the number of Ministers to two. The wording of the resolution is to the effect that the Government be approached to reduce the number of Ministers to two. If that be the object of the resolution, and if any vacancy arises on account of the resignation by any of the Ministers, and this resolution be at once given effect to by the Government, then I think that it will be a suicidal policy. No doubt, the other day we passed a resolution recommending the reduction of the number of the Executive Councillors to two, but that was a pious wish. The Government have got no hand in the matter, and under the Statute, we cannot do it. Therefore, Sir, supposing that pious wish be not given effect to by the Secretary of State and a vacancy immediately arises on account of the resignation of one of the Ministers and the Government give effect to this resolution, what would be the position? We would have four Executive Councillors and two Ministers, instead of three. Therefore, as a matter of practical politics—and it is not a question of mere academic interest—we should not think of accepting this resolution. It is only when we would be sure that the Secretary of State would give effect to our pious wish, then we should move for the reduction of the number of Ministers to two.

Then, Sir, one of my friends strongly contended before the House that this resolution is a necessary corollary to the resolution which we passed the other day. On the other hand, I contend that the necessary corollary of that resolution is that the number of Ministers should be retained. The very principle of the Reforms Scheme is that the voice of the people must have effect upon the Government and that it must predominate. When we wanted to reduce the number of the Executive Councillors to two, on the ground of economy, we had also in view the fact that the number of the high officials ought to be reduced, because their appointments do not depend upon our desire but upon the desire of somebody else, but if we follow the principle that the people of the country must have a predominant voice in the government of the country, then we must have as many Ministers as we possibly can; and we would have more of us adorning those seats in the front and we would have a cabinet consisting of those who represent the people. Now, Sir, it is not a case where there is any conflict of interests between certain communities. Certainly, the Europeans are as much interested in the administration of the country as the non-Europeans are. What we desire is that the Europeans should never identify their interests with those of the officials; but that they should identify their interests with those people, and the Ministers should be called their representatives. As I have said, I think that unless and until we are sure that the Secretary of State and the Government be pleased to reduce the number of Executive Councillors to two, we should not approach Government to reduce the number of Ministers to two on the ground of economy; otherwise it would be false economy to do so at the present stage.

Sir ASHUTOSH CHAUDHURI: We have been asking for very many years for an effective and predominant voice in the administration of the country, and now that we have got some voice, I oppose this resolution. We have now three Ministers; and I think that we ought to have more in course of time.

A charge of selfishness has been brought against us by a learned member of the Council. I candidly confess that it is from a feeling of selfishness that I am opposing this resolution; and I hope that the time will shortly come when we shall be able to congratulate ourselves that we have proved ourselves extremely selfish. Selfishness, to my mind, is another term for self-assertion; and I hope that we should be able to assert ourselves. We belong to the country and may I not add also, that the country belongs to us? The way in which this matter has been brought forward has been correctly stated by Sir Henry Wheeler, and it is very possible that, from a sense of symmetry, my friend, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, has brought it forward. What we want is a clear dominant voice in the government of this country; and therefore my position is that we ought to oppose this resolution.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: Although the matter has been discussed very fully, I think it right that, in the interests of our successors, at any rate, I should add what I feel about this matter. The first point which strikes me is: why is this hurry? Why should my friend at the first meeting of the Council bring forward a resolution of such importance as this? We are all new—I do not exclude the Ministers—and we do not know yet what the volume of work will be. The resolution means either of two things, as Mr. Nasim Ali has pointed out. It may mean an expression of opinion to be given effect to when the occasion arises; or it may mean an expression of opinion that will be given effect to immediately. Either way, it is unfortunate. If it is to be given effect to immediately, it means dislocation of business at the very inauguration of the Reforms. If it means that it should be given effect to later on, then I ask—why is this hurry? Could not the mover wait? I do not think that I need touch the argument of my friend that we, the Ministers, are lost to the public. Our venerable leader, Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, has already dealt with it, but may I point out to the House the position of the Ministers in countries we are trying to imitate? Are not the Ministers in Great Britain, America, or for the matter of that in any country where the democratic form of government prevails, leaders of public opinion? Have we not to do our best in placing our views in all matters of importance to our province? I do not really criticise the mover for the view he has taken. Well, Sir, the experiment is a new one and some people will take time to realise what the position of the Ministers ought to be. Although the Ministers are servants of the Crown, they are the representatives of the people. The sooner we realise this, the better. I may add that the enemies of reforms, in their press and platform, have been persistently preaching the doctrine that the Ministers are officials. So I can appreciate how the mover has fallen into an error.

Sir, there is another point which has been raised by some of the speakers who spoke in support of this motion, viz., economy. I have already said in the course of another debate, and let me repeat it to the House once again, that movements for economy have my cordial support and I have no doubt they will have the cordial support of my colleagues on the official side. But there is one point which I should like this House to consider. Before you bring forward movements for economy, you should take the trouble to see that the point you desire to put forward, is well considered. Are we—I say "we," deliberately including the Ministers,—are we really in a position within the few days that we have been called in to help the Reforms to formulate well-thought-out schemes of retrenchment?

The PRESIDENT: I wish to tell the Muhammadan members that they need not be impatient and that time will be given to them to say their evening prayers when the proper time comes.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: On the question of economy, is it not wise and proper that we should know how the land lies, that we should know something about the Budget, that we should know something about the Public Services, that we should know something about the just demands of administration, that we should know something of the just demands of the nation-building departments, that is, the Departments of Local Self-Government, of Public Health of Education, and when we are in a position to know what the real position is, then the time will come to formulate schemes of economy? I feel that I ought to tell the House that they ought to discharge their great responsibilities to their electors by acting more thoughtfully—I mean no disrespect and so I make this appeal While I appreciate the object of my friend the mover of this resolution, I cannot ignore the fact that he has been hasty in formulating cut-and-dried schemes of economy I can truly and properly say that the House to-day is not in a position to make helpful suggestions towards economy

Sir, a good deal has been said about the point that the Ministers will not have sufficient work and on this point I have often heard the argument repeated that, while in the old days one Lieutenant-Governor was quite enough to govern two provinces, we had a few months ago one Governor and three Members of the Executive Council for our province only, and now we want one Governor, four Members of the Executive Council and three Ministers to administer the province But, Sir, were we satisfied with the old state of things? Were the people of the old province satisfied with one Lieutenant-Governor? Why has this change come? Has not the change come because of our insistent demands? And now that the change has come, it is somewhat curious and somewhat amusing to my mind, to see that the very men who tried their best to bring about this change have now become enemies of the change It is interesting to analyse the psychology of a position like this After giving the matter careful consideration, I have come to the conclusion that these gentlemen have been carried away by cheap and plausible arguments of a certain section of the press The arguments may be catching, but not sound. They preach, with what object I cannot say, that the proper working of the Reforms would not lead to efficiency They constantly preach that while formerly one Lieutenant-Governor was enough, now we have an expensive and wasteful administration with no compensating advantage for the public But I would ask the members of the House—and they would not be here if they had no faith in the Reforms—to analyse the position in their own mind and not be led away by cheap and plausible arguments

About the work of the Members and the Ministers, I would ask you to remember one point. In the old Council we had only twenty-eight non-official members, and now we have got more than a hundred. Formerly twenty-eight members used to put questions and resolutions; now

more than a hundred would do so, and that means more work for us if you want us to consider them carefully.

Now, gentlemen, with your permission, may I state very briefly—for the benefit of my successor, not so much for myself—that the work of the department of which I am in charge occupies a great deal of my time? It may be due to the fact that I am very slow, but it is nothing but a fact—and I may tell you that if some of the problems—take, for instance, the problem of primary education for the whole province—are to be tackled seriously, they are enough to occupy the time of a Minister very fully. Take University education. For instance, if the recommendations of the Calcutta University Commission are to be given effect to, they alone will occupy a Minister's time fully. Take the new University at Dacca. That, again, is a problem of prime importance. But, gentlemen, I do not desire to tire your patience by any further enumeration, but I wanted to give you certain facts, so that you might judge for yourself.

Babu Nitya Dhon Mukherjee has said that certain gentlemen have changed their mind within 48 hours—that while they voted for reduction in the number of Executive Councillors 48 hours ago, from four to two, they do not find their way to reduce the number of Ministers from three to two. May I tell him that a Minister, if he is really anxious to do his work, has to keep in touch with the public? This aspect of the question does not affect the case of the Executive Councillors. They are responsible to the Secretary of State, while we are responsible to you. And that means we have additional duties in keeping ourselves in touch with you.

Mr. C. MORGAN moved for a closure.

The PRESIDENT: I want to adjourn now for the Muhammadan members who want to say their prayers, for quarter of an hour.

The Council re-assembled at 6-15 P.M.

Mr. C. MORGAN: I move that the question be now put.

The motion that the question be now put was then put and agreed to.

The main question was then put and a division was taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Maitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon.
Mukhopadhyaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.

NOES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Afzal, Khan Bahadur, Nawabzada K. M.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Mesbah Uddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Maulvi Syed Muksood.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
Barton, Mr. H.
Birley, Mr. L.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Sir Ashutosh.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das, Mr. S. R.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Chatak, Rai Sahib Nilmani.
Chose, Mr. D. C.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Lank, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Marr, Mr. A.
McKenzie Mr. D. P.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Morgan, Mr. C.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan
Poddar, Babu Keshoram.
Rae, Mr. W. R.
Raut, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Rhodes, Mr. C. W.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilall Singh.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Travers, Mr. W. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 20, and the Noes being 73, the motion was lost.

Retrenchments in Expenditure.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: "This Council recommends to the Government that a committee be formed consisting of 12 elected members, 4 nominated members and 4 official members of the Council, to report within six months what retrenchments in expenditure in the various departments of the Government can be safely and usefully made."

I confess that this is a very comprehensive resolution. It is based on the idea of securing economy, but certainly not at the cost of efficiency. I do not want to divorce one from the other. My resolution demands a survey of all the various departments of Government—the whole of the administrative machinery—with a view to find out what parts are old and archaic which ought to be removed and what new parts are mere useless accretions. This is the idea, but I am free to confess that this cannot be done by merely suggesting one

or two instances where retrenchments can be made offhand or in an isolated form. It is therefore necessary that there should be a survey of the various departments of Government. Unfortunately for me—never having had any close touch with the Government—I am not in a position to suggest what possible retrenchments could be made, and therefore my submission to the House is that a committee be formed to consider the whole question with the aid of the departmental officers. I am not wedded to the idea that there must be retrenchments, but retrenchments will be and should be made only where it is possible. I am not one of those who believe that retrenchments must be made under any circumstances. But all the same I am one of those who believe that the present Government is a top-heavy one. I am one of those who believe that we must have money and more money for the greatest necessities of the country, namely, sanitation, compulsory primary education and technical education. For sanitation we must have more money, for we cannot exist without sanitation. The country must have extensive anti-malarial campaigns and we require a lot of money. I am sorry to say that almost nothing has been done by Government in this direction, and so far as compulsory primary education is concerned, we know that Government never took it up. Under those circumstances, gentlemen, I think that there ought to be a committee of inquiry and that is my resolution.

There is one thing that I may tell that, so far as the present Government is concerned, I mean the Government in its present shape, we want a democratic government it is true and it is also true that a democratic government is a very costly form of government, but by a strange irony of fate we have been given only the costliness of the democratic government without its responsibility. However, we have got to go on, and in view of that the time has come when we must, if we can, usefully and safely make retrenchments. I do not desire, as I have said, to suggest what retrenchments could be made, and if I were to suggest, then I would begin with the Board of Revenue and the Behala Sub-Registry office. We must have a principle to guide us and we cannot arrive at a principle until we have made a proper survey of the whole situation and learned to apply the knife with advantage. Therefore I respectfully submit to this House that there should be a committee and that they should accept my proposition. As I have already said, and I want to repeat it again, the whole of this undertaking depends on the attitude that the officials will show. If they are sympathetic, then and not till then we shall be successful in the survey, and I hope, Sir, that the officials will co-operate with us in this matter and try to find out where it is possible to make these retrenchments.

I do not think, Sir, that a speech is necessary or even possible on a subject like this. But what I felt all my life is this: that

in this country all the ointment that is meant for the painful part of the patient is being largely absorbed in the big bold hands of the nurse. However good and kind the nurses might be, I do not question that they have got very big bold hands, and it is those hands that are absorbing all the ointment which is meant for the poor patient. The nurse will be kind but the hands must be smaller, and more ointment must be left for being applied to the painful part of the patient, and that cannot be done unless there is genuine co-operation of the officials with us. We are not in the Secretariat and we cannot possibly detect everything on a mere superficial inspection, and it is only possible if the officers tell us candidly and frankly, which is co-operating with us. If they really co-operate with us in this matter, then we shall certainly say that they really mean the Reforms to be a success. I therefore suggest that there should be a committee consisting of 12 elected members, 4 nominated members and 4 official members of the Council, to report within six months what retrenchments in expenditure in the various departments of Government can be safely and usefully made. The proportion of elected members is only 12 out of 20. That is not much, because I know we, the elected members, by ourselves cannot do much in this line. We require to be taught many things in this matter, and therefore there must be assistance coming forward from those who are in charge of these departments and who alone can help us in this endeavour. Of course, it will take time, and therefore I have put six months. I have some doubt as to whether a committee of 20 members can possibly work this out, and it seems to me that it is far more desirable that there should be small committees to inspect each of these departments. As I started by saying that I do not possess the necessary knowledge, I speak without sufficient knowledge. I think that a small committee must take up bigger departments of Government and after that we will go to the smaller departments. At any rate we must begin with a view to making a thorough survey to find out if there is room for retrenchment compatible with efficiency. This is all that I have to say, and I do not think that there will be any objection to this, from the officials at any rate.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE moved, by way of amendment, to the resolution of Babu Surendra Nath Mullick regarding the formation of a committee to consider retrenchments in expenditure "that this Council recommends to the Government that small committees appointed by the Government and consisting of elected members of the Bengal Legislative Council be attached to the important departments of the Government with a view to studying the working of the said departments and to make a report to the Government within one year as to what retrenchments in their opinion can safely and usefully be effected."

The House has listened to so many speeches to-night that I think it will be a welcome relief to it, if I am very brief in my remarks, and

a long speech is not necessary either, because the mover of the resolution has given his case away by saying that his suggestions are thoroughly unpractical. Well, Sir, when I saw his resolution I also came to the same conclusion and therefore gave notice of my amendment. I quite realise that the financial position of this presidency is such that there is a natural desire in our minds to effect retrenchments in every direction. By all means have retrenchments, but, before you cut down expenditure, study the machinery carefully and then come to the conclusion what are the superfluous parts that can be got rid of. Therefore, I say it requires a very patient and a very thorough study, and a committee of the sort which the mover suggests, cannot do the work. You will never get elected members of this Council to work from day to day for the purpose of studying the working of the Government machinery and then making their recommendations. From what I know of meetings of the Corporation, I am certain that, if you ask members to devote their whole time to a particular work, you will never get that work done. Therefore what I suggest is this. I ask Government to appoint small committees consisting of elected members of the Council, whose first business will be to study very carefully and very efficiently the working of the important departments of Government and then come to the conclusion what are the superfluous parts of the machinery that can safely be got rid of. This is my amendment and I commend it to the acceptance of this House.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Considering the strong current of public feeling now running high in the country on the question of wasteful expenditure, I should say that the resolution has not been brought before the House a moment too soon. Rightly or wrongly, the public do hold the view that there is a considerable amount of unnecessary and wasteful expenditure of public money in the various departments of the Government, and it is honestly and sincerely believed by many that much of this wastage can be stopped and the savings thus made can be very usefully utilised. As representatives of the people we cannot ignore this feeling. On the other hand, it is our duty to see that there is peace and tranquillity in the public mind. We must make every effort to remove all public grievances, whether they are due to real or imaginary causes. As we find the situation at present, we cannot but advise the Government to take at once some such action as is recommended in this resolution.

The success of the Reforms would lie, to a large extent, in the manner in which we could administer the important departments which have been transferred to popular control. But we all know that the grants allotted to these departments in the past would not now meet their growing demands, even if they are most judiciously and economically administered. We must require money and more money to cope

with the vast amount of uphill work which lies before us in some of these departments, specially in the departments of Agriculture, Sanitation and Primary Education. Of course the money has got to be found, and, if necessary, we must submit to fresh taxation. But we would only court disaster and add to the ever-growing disaffection, if we talk of taxation when the public, rightly or wrongly, are convinced that there is a good deal of unnecessary expenditure in almost all the departments of the Government which could very well be stopped.

It is, therefore, even for the success of the Reforms, imperative that we should make a careful examination of how we spend our money at present. If any retrenchment in expenditure is possible, we must make it; but if no retrenchment be possible, we would at least be able to remove a false impression from the public mind and in addition have public opinion in our favour when we have to impose new taxes. Considering all these, I am in full sympathy with the resolution moved by Babu Surendra Nath Mullick and would heartily welcome the appointment of a committee on the lines suggested by him.

Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: We desire to make the administration less costly and to devote more money to works of public utility. Education and sanitation demand our urgent attention; and they require huge sums of money. We cannot impose fresh taxes. The burden of the tax-payers is already heavy and it should not be made heavier, till their material condition is improved. The Reforms have resulted in enhancing expenses in administration; and we, in this Council, have been passing resolutions to curtail surplus appointments. The whole question of retrenchment should be carefully considered and means devised to minimise expenditure consistently with efficiency. This work can be usefully accomplished only by a committee ready to devote time for the work.

Under the circumstances, we should use the pruning knife carefully. I have, therefore, very great pleasure in supporting the resolution proposed by my friend.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: Let me at the outset say that I am in favour of the amendment. The resolution as well as the amendment, to my mind, are very nearly one and the same, with this difference, that the amendment makes for more efficient looking into the work than the resolution itself does. If these 20 persons are to be allowed to look into the details of the departments, I am of opinion that it will not at all be physically possible for them to do so. But a small committee will be able to go into the minutest details and arrive at a proper conclusion.

Mr. H. BARTON: I realise that in this resolution we are up against a very big question. I do not know whether the object of the

resolution is against those who are receiving large salaries or against those who are very much underpaid. Consequently I view the resolution with a great deal of fear. From my experience I have found that whenever committees had been appointed to cut down expenditure it has always been more specially the poorest paid class of workers who were generally attacked and cut off. Gentlemen, let me tell you that a committee such as this is not likely to go in any other direction than that followed by its predecessors, and let me also press upon you that those who form the workers of those departments are members of your community or mine. We know that the subordinates in almost every Government department are overworked and underpaid. We have seen very recently that Government thought fit to appoint a committee to inquire into the condition of pay in the various departments of Government. These men have been crying out against the economic strain brought about by the increased cost of living, and, although Government has been graciously pleased to grant them some little increase, we find that even here those, who are in receipt of the largest salary, have received the largest increase while those who receive a miserable pittance have received almost nothing. Gentlemen, those who have suffered as a result of this decision are those who belong to the poor Indian community and to my own community—I mean the Anglo-Indian. Therefore I say that I view this resolution with a great deal of fear of consequences. May I also tell you that in giving effect to a resolution of this sort you are likely to place Government in a very awkward position? We all know that these poor workers to-day, who were afraid by reason of official oppression or otherwise to raise their voice against the conditions of their service, have now formed into strong organisations—labour organisations—which are determined to defend their interest. May I also tell you that it is the principle of all such organisations to co-operate sympathetically with one another in their efforts to defend their interests, and is it the desire of this Council to go to war with labour? I do not think it is. And we must inevitably have to do so, if we allow this investigation by a committee.

SIR, if we decide that this committee should also look into the conditions of service and pay of the subordinates in the various departments, I am fearful of the obvious consequences. So I am not in favour of this resolution. If I am assured otherwise I may perhaps be disposed to support it, but I do feel that we are embarking on a very dangerous venture, because a large majority of the workers, who will come under the consideration of this committee, will be those who are being most worked and those will be your people or my people. Again, in an inquiry of this nature we are likely to intrude upon their rights as workers, and because I am fearful of the consequences, I do not feel that those who will sit on this committee will do a fair thing always. Somehow it has always been the case that the poorest paid man has

always suffered as a result of such inquiry. For these reasons I am not prepared to support this resolution.

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: I need hardly say that the Finance Department are in full sympathy with the object of the mover of this resolution and the mover of the amendment in so far as their desire to effect economy in the administration of Government is concerned. It is the constant business of the Finance Department to enforce economy on the other departments and we incur a certain amount of unpopularity on that account. If we get a committee to help us in our task and share our unpopularity no one would be more pleased than I should be. But my fear regarding committees of this nature is that they often have entirely unexpected results. Mr. Barton has hinted at some of the possible consequences, namely, that the lower paid Government officials in these days of organisation might be able to enforce their views on a committee, and that Government thereby would be placed in a difficult position. That, I think, is one of the possible consequences which the Council will do well to consider very carefully before they launch out on this scheme of inquiries by committees. I can imagine a committee of this kind calling upon Mr. Hornell and asking him if he has any economy to suggest in connection with the department under him. Mr. Hornell, I have no doubt, after recovering from the first shock of surprise, would proceed to give the committee a serious shock, and in the course of a few sittings he would be able to convince them that his grants should not be reduced but that they ought to be doubled. Similarly, in the case of the Surgeon-General, the committee would find that the medical needs of the Presidency demand a considerably larger grant than now. The Surgeon-General has prepared some excellent schemes not only for the improvement of the medical services but for the removal of human pain and suffering; and we have been obliged to cut out all these schemes simply because we have no money. I think that the Surgeon-General would soon convince the committee that he should have a very considerably larger grant. I gather that the mover of the resolution would not object to a result of this kind, but I can assure him that the demands for increased grants come not merely from the popular departments but from other departments of Government also and my fear is that the committee in their report would suggest proposals which, far from effecting economy in expenditure, would put pressure upon Government to increase the normal expenditure of the various departments. I need not go into the objections which have occurred to me about the size of the committee proposed in the main resolution, because I understand from the mover's speech that he has practically thrown over his own suggestion in favour of that of Mr. D. C. Ghose. But my main objection about this committee is that it is premature for this Council to suggest on the third day on which it has sat that the best way of effecting

economy in Government departments is to set up a series of committees. The mover of the resolution has asked the Government officials not to be obstructive; but I can assure him that officials have no intention of obstructing. We should indeed be very foolish to be obstructive. The Council has been given very large powers of financial and other control over the proceedings of the departments, and is much more likely to exercise that power of control wisely if we give the members of the Council full opportunities of acquainting themselves with the circumstances of the various departments instead of leaving them to launch their attacks and criticisms in ignorance or at random. Our policy, therefore, is not to conceal anything but to explain everything, and it would be foolish to adopt any other policy. Holding these views, I am quite entitled to ask the Council to consider whether it is really wise to start a series of inquiries by committees. The Council, as I have said, has only sat for two days and many of the members are new to Council work, a very large number of them, as the mover himself said, have no practical experience of the working of the Government departments, but that state of ignorance is not going to continue very long. We are not going to spend our time in Council in discussing variegated resolutions as we have hitherto been doing. On the 21st of this month the Budget statement will be presented to the Council, and that will give to the Council a comprehensive view of the resources and liabilities of the Government, and I suggest that, until the Council has that general view, it is unable to say what the standard of economy or what the standard of expenditure ought to be. Only a couple of hours ago, the Council has sent up a representation to the Government of India asking them for more liberal treatment in the matter of increasing our income. Our standard of expenditure depends to a considerable extent on what our resources will be, and until we know what our resources are going to be, we cannot set up any standard of inquiry by which committees of this kind would be guided in their deliberations. After the Budget has been presented on the 21st of February, the Council will have time to study it till the 28th, when they will begin a general discussion on the financial position in the course of which members will have an opportunity of raising any points on which they require further information or which they consider to be unsatisfactory; and we will endeavour to reply to those points to the best of our ability. The third stage of the Budget will take place from the 14th March. In the 12 days after the 14th the Council will consider and vote the demands of the various departments. It will have an opportunity of challenging the expenditure proposals of all the departments either as regards the total or as regards individual details; and the Members and Ministers in charge of the various departments will in turn have an opportunity of justifying their policy, both generally and in points of detail. By the end of March, the Council will have a very good general idea of the financial position and of the circumstances, views and

policy of the different departments. If they then require any further information on any details, they will have opportunities of gaining it by means of motions or resolutions or questions in this Council; or by reference to the authorities in charge of the different departments, and I hope that members will take full advantage of those opportunities. We should see a good deal of them in the next six weeks and we shall be glad to see members either here or in office, to discuss with them any matters they wish to raise and give them any explanation or information that can properly be given. I am authorised to make this announcement in Council not only for my own department but for all the other Members of the Executive Council and the Ministers. I suggest to the members of this Council that, if they take advantage of the various opportunities which I mentioned, they will have a very good general idea of the financial position, and any further information they want, they will get either here or from the Budget. It may be said that a committee of this kind would help the Council in dealing with the Budget, but obviously the committee would not have time to produce their report within the next six weeks. I suggest therefore that the Council will do well to postpone this matter for a couple of months. Then the Council will be able to say exactly what they want, and if they still desire inquiry by committees, to give to the committees definite instructions as to what they are to enquire into and what sort of report the Council wants from them. As I have said before, I think that the committee system is rather a dangerous method of procedure, particularly from the point of view of economy, but if two months hence the Council still want committees to inquire into any definite question in any particular department, Government will be prepared to consider the matter further, and if committees are appointed to give them all information and facilities they require for carrying out their duties. But I would ask the Council to consider very seriously the grave objections to setting up committees with the very vague and general instructions contained in the resolution and in the amendment to the resolution. As I have said before, we have no desire to place obstructions in the way of the Council, and we have every desire to give the fullest information they require about the working of the different departments. We realise the Council's claims in this respect, but I would ask the Council in return to remember that the Secretaries and Heads of Departments are hard-worked officers and, if a committee sitting in Writers' Buildings with general instructions to inquire into the working of the departments require their presence for days together, there will be a waste of their time to a considerable and unnecessary extent. So I would urge the mover of the resolution and the mover of the amendment to consider whether their purposes will not be equally well served by waiting until the conclusion of the Budget debate and then considering what further information they want in order to get an insight into the working of the departments; they can tell us their requirements and we will see

what we can do to meet them. At the present time I think it would be undesirable to set up these committees with vague and general instructions, and I hope therefore that these proposals will not be pressed.

The PRESIDENT: At this stage I would ask the mover of the resolution if he has anything to say.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I am indeed thankful to the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr for his kind promise of help in this matter. After what has fallen from him about the advisability of postponing this matter, I am perfectly willing to wait for two months. If we then find that such a committee is necessary, we shall come up again with a proposal of some shape. So far as I am concerned, I accept the suggestion of Mr. Kerr and withdraw my resolution for the next two months.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I am also willing that the consideration of this question should be postponed for two months.

The PRESIDENT: I wish to communicate to you that the Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan desires to invite all the members of this Council to a Garden Party on the 21st February to meet His Excellency the Viceroy. This was communicated to His Excellency the Governor, and the Secretary has received this telegram:—

"Sitting of 21st. Am willing to call sitting for 11 A.M. on that day if substantial number of members desire it and to restrict business to Government business."

It is obvious that if the Council meets at 3 o'clock on the 21st it is difficult for any one to attend the Garden Party. If by 4 o'clock to-morrow I do not receive any objection from the members, I will take it that they agree to this change.

Adjournment.

The PRESIDENT: The Council is now adjourned to 3 o'clock to-morrow in this Chamber.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council assembled at 3 P.M. on the 10th February, 1921, in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers and 112 nominated and elected members.

Jute mills idle.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Commerce aware that to-day there are two jute mills standing idle, and at least half a dozen more will be idle before Monday if coal is not supplied?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): Government are aware that the position is serious. They have been in communication with the Government of India and their officers regarding the matter.

Export of rice from India.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "This Council recommends to the Government that the Government of India be moved to take such immediate steps as may be necessary to put a stop to the export of rice from India beyond such surplus quantity as may remain after meeting the demands of the country."

I do not know whether the resolution demands a lengthy speech. It really aims at the early acceptance of one of the several recommendations of the High Prices Committee. Their report has been submitted to Government and we understand it is now under the consideration of Government. Government's action is dilatory, and, moreover, in this case there are several questions for serious consideration. I urge now that one of the recommendations as regards rice should be taken up at once and my excuse is that this is the season when large purchases of rice are going to be made, probably for foreign countries; and if any precautionary measure is necessary, I think it ought to be taken now. I am aware, Sir, that in this Council there are several members, at least some of whom who are interested in the rice trade, and there are their supporters. It may be that I may be again accused of bringing up this matter in an unguarded moment, without taking due care to ascertain whether there is any special necessity for doing so,

or I may be accused of doing it for some motive. Sir, whatever may be said, I am not sorry in the least. I know, and men who have some knowledge of the ordinary tactics in the legal profession know, that when one is to support a cause for which he has got no weighty arguments or which is very weak, he generally adopts the tactics of abusing his adversary, so that the real point at issue may be lost sight of. I am also aware, Sir, that there is the inherent tendency in some of my friends, especially in Calcutta, to think that all the common sense and intelligence is confined inside the Mahratta ditch. I make this reference only because I may be deprived of the privilege of replying to my adversaries as was done yesterday. My Calcutta friends are anxious not to consider many subjects and I do not know what to do with them. They are opposed to an early sitting because it interferes with their profession or touches their pockets, and I noticed yesterday that at about 7 only they were very anxious and were tired, probably as dinner time was approaching. Sir, I may be pardoned for this little digression.

To turn to the point the real thing is that some measure is necessary.

There is an indication that the price of rice is likely to go high. Of course I do not know the reason. From the official announcements we have learnt that in some districts the rice outturn is below the average, and much below normal. This may be on account of the shortage of rain, and the cultivators as well as many of us know that when there is a partial failure of rain the outturn is very low. This rise, again, may also be due to the great demand for export to foreign countries. There is no export duty on food-stuffs in India excepting only rice, and rice only gives 3 annas a maund, so far as I know, for export duty; so really the Imperial exchequer is not benefited by this trade. Indians have got no commercial enterprise outside India, so whatever profit is derived from it goes to the foreigner. I do not grudge it, and if the producers are benefited by the shortage of rice I should rather encourage it. But my object is that our own needs ought to be ascertained first, and if there is any real surplus, that may go outside India. I may cite an instance especially given in the report of the High Prices Committee. There was a conference in August, 1918, at Nagpur of all the provincial Directors of Civil Supplies and other Government representatives under the presidency of Sir Claude Hill. One Mr. Beadel, who was the Director of Civil Supplies in Bengal then, attended the Nagpur Conference and represented that in Bengal the prospects were very good and the total output in Bengal could be estimated at 3 lakhs of tons. Thus Bengal was declared a surplus province in regard to rice, and there was a heavy run on the rice stocks of Bengal which produced a tension in the rice situation in the whole of India. Government informed us that this information was supplied on insufficient data. This was done upon some

private inquiries made by Mr. Beadel from some of the rice merchants—some interested persons, and the result was that Bengal was denuded of its stock in 1919 and the people were reduced to the brink of starvation. Similarly, I think, if there is any deficiency of stock, or if there is any surplus, we should not encourage export trade. Of course I would like to see my country prosperous and commanding a large export trade in rice, but I wish that heavier export duty be imposed upon rice and other food-grains. As Burma has got the monopoly of rice supplies in India, so I wish that Bengal especially may do so. But I think before we can do that, we must see that the outturn is increased. Several remedies have been suggested by the High Prices Committee, and I hope Government will take notice of them and take remedial measures at an early date. It is for the immediate future that something ought to be done, and in that view I have brought forward this resolution. I do not know, Sir, whether this high price at all benefits the producers. They are, most of them, very poor. It may be convenient to the rice dealers, I mean to the country dealers, it may be convenient to the well-to-do cultivators, but I do not know whether the high price is at all convenient to the ordinary cultivators, the real producers, who are very illiterate and extravagant. Experience has shown that whenever they get sufficient money, they spend it recklessly in the fish market or on ceremonial occasions. Some of them are in the hands of the *mahajans*. They sell everything they have for paying off their zamindars' dues and meeting other demands, and during the cultivating season they are obliged to go to the *mahajans* for their daily supplies and even for their food-stuffs. We know that the jute cultivators were very prosperous for some years. Could they amass any money? Recently they were in difficulty, not being able to get a market for their jute, and the result was that they were on the brink of starvation, which was partly due, I think, to the shortage of food-grains. If that is so, I would ask the House to consider whether this high price really benefits the producers. A large proportion of the Indian people depends upon the supply of the producers, and for their benefit it is necessary that sufficient stocks should be preserved in the country. Is it at all reasonable to allow the heavy export to go on for the benefit of a few well-to-do cultivators?

There is a notice of an amendment for substituting "Bengal" for "India," but I request my friends not to take up this question; it is an inter-provincial question and should not be raised now. At present my request is that something ought to be done for retaining sufficient stocks for consumption in the country. I think that can be done, if we know what the needs of the country are. In the Famine Code there is some provision, that question has also been dealt with at length in the report of the High Prices Committee, and it can also be done by calculation; district officers' reports can also be consulted; in those reports

they prepare an estimate, and upon that estimate at least we can proceed to arrive at a definite conclusion. If we can know something about the annual outturn, we can easily calculate what would be the annual consumption. We can also easily ascertain the annual demand. I will not detain the House any longer over this matter, and with these few words I commend the resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I beg to move an amendment to the resolution of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri regarding the export of rice. The amended resolution will run thus:

"This Council recommends to the Government that the Government of India be moved to take such immediate steps as may be necessary to put a stop to the export of rice from Bengal beyond such surplus quantity as may remain after meeting the demands of the province."

I am in general agreement with the main resolution proposed by my friend on the left, but I am afraid it is too broad to serve the purpose of Bengal. I am anxious to have something definite and limited in scope, which is likely to pave the way towards bringing down the high price of the staple food of the people of Bengal. The objects, with which Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri has moved his resolution, are the same as those of my amendment, viz., to keep sufficient food stuffs in the country and to bring down prices, but I want to make certain that the people of Bengal may first be sure of cheap food before I can think of the other provinces of India. A restriction on export from India does not very much affect inter-provincial movements of rice and may not at all lower the prices in Bengal. If there is scarcity and high price of rice in Bengal, it will be small consolation to the people to be told that the trouble is due to export to one of the other provinces of India and not to some foreign country. I am conscious, Sir, that I lay myself open to the charge of parochial or provincial patriotism as against Indian patriotism, but in the matter of the prime necessity of life, I would welcome this accusation, if, by so doing, I could be certain that even the poorest Bengali would not be in danger of starvation for want of sufficient rice in the province. Protection, like charity, must begin at home, and I prefer to think of Bengal first, in this matter at any rate. I do not deny the importance of the whole-India question, but I know, Sir, that there are other bodies who can think of India; it would be well enough if this Council thinks of Bengal just at present.

It has been stated that if we do not allow free export of rice to the other provinces, they might retaliate by stopping export of pulse and other produce to Bengal. Even if this argument were true, we should not mind at all, because rice is to us a greater necessity than pulse and other things and it is imperative to keep sufficient rice in the province. But then, the argument is fallacious, because the other provinces do not send their goods to us in exchange for our rice, but because they

find a better market here. Burma does not send rice to us because she loves us, but because she has a surplus quantity, which it is to her interest to send out. I have been told by a friend in this Council, Babu Amulya Dhone Addy, that Java will not send her sugar nor England her piece-goods, if we do not send out our rice to them. I, for one, shall be glad if this happens. Perhaps it is not known to many in this Council that 150 years ago, Bengal not only produced her own sugar but also exported. As for piece-goods, it would be a happy day for Bengal if she could manufacture her own requirements. To come now to the main point of my proposal There is no difference of opinion that the price of rice has gone up very high, and threatens to continue so. This has been so well recognised that only in July last, a Prices Inquiry Committee was appointed by the Bengal Legislative Council to consider the question of high prices and to suggest remedies. Their report has been published, and their conclusions regarding the connection of export with high price has not been challenged by the Government or any other body, and I may take it that as far as the question of export of rice is concerned, their suggestions are substantially correct. They have suggested many other remedies, but the main remedy that affects my point is this, "that (*a*) export of rice overseas be stopped altogether until the yield is increased sufficiently to create a real and substantial surplus, and (*b*) inter-provincial export of rice be stopped when there has not been good harvest in Bengal."

I should go further than this recommendation and suggest that export from Bengal should be stopped until there is a sufficient surplus, and my reasons for doing so are these.

We have to look at this matter mainly in the light of two questions:—

First.—Does free export of rice tend to increase the price of rice?

Secondly Is the high price of rice good for the majority of the people of Bengal?

There are other minor points which may be taken up when we have been able to solve these two questions To take the first question first, whatever free-trade economists may say, I think the answer to this question must be in the affirmative. I believe, it is well known to this Council, that the price of rice generally reaches the lowest level, when the new *Aman* rice is out in January. For days together I have watched country markets in one of the best rice-growing parts of Bengal, and I have always found that the price invariably goes up as soon as an exporter arrives in the market. From evidence gathered by the Prices Committee, they assert that "it is a well-known fact that whenever there has been a rumour that export of rice will be allowed, the price of rice has risen . . . whenever export has been stopped there has been, as if by a mechanical process, a reduction in the price." Mr. Rushbrook Williams, who was placed

on special duty in the Home Department of the Government of India, came to the conclusion, in his paper "India in 1919," that a carefully organised system of Government control and restrictions imposed on exports by the deliberate action of the Government have partially protected India from the world rise of prices

I shall now take up the second and more debatable question whether the high price of rice is good for the majority of the people of Bengal. There are some people who give an affirmative answer to this question, assuming that the large majority of the people of Bengal are agriculturists and hence the high price of their produce must bring them in money. This might have been true if all the agriculturists had been able to grow more rice than was necessary for their own consumption and sell the surplus. But, what are the facts? I am afraid, statistics are not available, but I know from personal inquiry in my part of the country, that this is not the case. I believe that not more than 25 per cent of the agriculturists can grow sufficient rice for their own consumption The rest of the people have to buy, even if for a few months in the year And they have invariably to buy at the dearest markets;—their stock generally runs short during the months of July to September, when the prices reach the highest limit For the last few years, the prices have reached the extraordinary limit of Rs. 9 to Rs 10 per maund at this season of the year The agriculturist who has to pay this price for his staple food cannot bless the system which causes this high price and spells utter ruination for him and his like Then, what about the large number of day labourers, who have always to purchase? Is high price good for them? It is, however, an economic fact that the continued high price of the necessaries of life tends to raise the general level of prices, and the general rise affects nearly all articles of daily use, and this increase in prices goes on in a vicious circle

So much for the agriculturist- but what about the middle classes? I know, Sir, that their number is not as large as that of the agriculturists; but mere numbers are not the criterion of the importance of a community. The middle classes are the brains of this country We cannot neglect them; nay, it is they who take the most important share in the affairs of the country. The way the high price of rice has affected them is most pitiable. I have some intimate connection with a bank whose business is to lend money to this class of people; and from experience I venture to throw out this challenge to the Government that nearly 75 per cent. of the middle class people have to borrow money every year. The life of the middle class *bhadralok* is one long-drawn sigh from month's end to month's end. It is the duty of this Council to afford them what relief can be given by helping to keep down the price of the chief food-stuff of the province.

I do not deny that the rise in the price of rice may benefit some people, especially the profiteering merchants; but I hope that I have

been able to convince this Council that the majority of the people are at a disadvantage when the price of rice is at a high level. It is well to remember in this connection that in times of free export, the profit obtained by the agriculturists is hopelessly out of proportion to the enormous profits made by the exporting merchants and middlemen.

Now comes the question of ways and means and the quantity that may safely be exported. There are several people who are of opinion that export of rice should never be allowed at all. This is too extreme a view to take, because if there is really a surplus stock in the province, the price of rice may go down to such an extent that the agriculturists may be tempted to diminish the area under rice cultivation, and grow other crops which may be more paying. This would be a real danger to the country, as the supersession of jute on rice lands has proved to be in many parts of Northern and Eastern Bengal. Then, again, there are some qualities of rice which are not, I am told, consumed by the people of Bengal. I am not quite sure of this, but if it is a fact, these fine qualities may be regarded as surplus, as they are not needed for the requirements of the province and may be allowed to be exported.

As regards the method of finding what is the surplus and what quantity may safely be exported, my friend, the mover of the original resolution, has suggested a course, and I think that it is not difficult for the Government, if they really take pains, to find that out, they can do it on the basis of 10 chittacks per head per day and come safely to a figure as to what quantity has been produced and what surplus can safely be exported. I think that only surplus rice may be allowed to be exported; but this brings us to the question as to whether we have any surplus in Bengal just now. Many people have said that there is a good crop in Bengal and there is surely going to be a surplus, but one good rice crop does not bring in a surplus, as one swallow does not make a summer. I think that Sir Edward Maclagan's Committee on Co-operation have said that in India it has been found by experience that one good year is followed by two indifferent years and one bad year, and so possibly we cannot expect one good year in more than four years, and we cannot therefore be sure of the surplus always. So for some years to come, I am afraid we cannot expect any surplus, because during the last two years of scarcity, the reserve stock, if there was any in Bengal, has dwindled down. If we have some good years to come, and if the agriculturists utilise more lands for rice, we may have some surplus, but until then, it is imperative that the export of rice from Bengal must be stopped. There is no danger of price falling too low, as Mr. Rushbrook Williams, of whom I spoke before and who has studied the question fully, says, "the reserve stocks must now be so low that it will probably be a long time before grain becomes really cheap."

Some people suggest that if the export of rice from Bengal brings in a shortage, Burma rice can be imported to meet the situation. As

Bengal rice is better in quality, this will fetch a higher price to the agriculturist who may purchase Burma rice and have some balance in hand. Experience has shown us that people will not touch Burma rice unless it is very much cheaper, say Re. 1-8 to Rs. 2 per maund, and unless the people are absolutely compelled to take it for want of Bengal rice. Burma rice does not suit the health of Bengal, and a continued use of it causes deterioration in health, and it would be adding the last straw to make the Bengalis take to Burma rice instead of their own rice.

As regards the way in which the Government have viewed this question, whatever may have been their attitude in the past, it appears from the quotations which have been made from the report of the Prices Inquiry Committee, that the Bengal Government took up an attitude of continuing restrictions on inter-provincial movements, even up to March last. But the Government of India, in spite of repeated protests, removed all restrictions.

From reports received from the mufassal markets I find that the price of rice has gone up to about Rs. 6-8 a maund this year, when the harvest, as has been already reported, is good. This is a tolerably high price at this time of the year, and I am afraid that it will tend to go up unless some sort of check is put on export. I hope that the Bengal Government have not changed their mind, and I appeal to this Council to recommend to the Government first to find out what surplus there is in Bengal, and then, if there is no surplus, to go up to the Government of India to put a stop to export. This may be done temporarily, I do not say that it should be done permanently. Let us put a stop to export and see what results it brings in and if it really reduces the price to an abnormally low figure, then, of course, these restrictions may be removed. With these words, I commend my amendment to the acceptance of this Council.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I thank Mr. Chaudhuri and Mr. Dutta for their anxiety for the relief of the people of Bengal, but I am sorry to find that the resolution which has been moved by Mr. Chaudhuri is vague and unworkable. It has already been admitted to be vague by the mover of the amendment, Mr. Dutta. Mr. Dutta has stated that the original resolution is too broad. I call the original resolution a vague one, because it has not been defined in the resolution as to whether India is British India or not; as to whether the mover of the resolution has excluded Burma or not. Sir, he has stated that the surplus quantity of rice may be allowed to be exported; but how can we ascertain the surplus quantity? In ascertaining the surplus quantity of rice we must ascertain the population of India, the production and the consumption of rice in India. Unless and until we do that, we shall not be in a position to ascertain what would be the surplus quantity of rice in India. Sir, I gave notice of a question in connection with rice, but I was informed that this Council had no jurisdiction in the matter. This question rests with the Imperial Council

and the Government of India. Therefore, Sir, in accordance with the ruling laid down by your honour, I beg to submit that this Council has no jurisdiction over this question. The mover of the resolution first of all has abused the Calcutta members of this Council, and in supporting the resolution he has stated that the Calcutta members are anxious to have the sittings of the Council at 3 o'clock instead of at 11 in the morning. But that is no reason, Sir, as to why his resolution should be supported. He has stated that the rice crop this year is not a good one because of the untimely rainfall; but I beg to submit that in Bengal we had a timely rainfall in the month of September, and that is the reason why the rice crop of Bengal, or rather of India, is a very good one generally. As a matter of fact we have had a good crop in Bengal and in the adjoining provinces. It will appear from the second rice forecast that in the province of Bihar and Orissa the crop is 80 per cent.; in Orissa itself it is much more than that; in Bengal it is 90 per cent. of the normal crop, in Burma it is 95 per cent.; in the Madras Presidency it is 99 per cent., and in Burma, Sir, we have a bumper crop. It is estimated that the surplus of rice in Burma would be about 3 million tons, corresponding to 80 lakhs of maunds last year, when export was allowed to foreign countries though under restrictions. Still the net surplus of rice in Burma is half a million, corresponding to 136 lakhs of maunds. Sir, I beg to submit that unless there are special reasons to the contrary, there should not be any interference with the trade. That is the opinion which has been expressed by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Burma Chamber of Commerce, and as well as the Bombay Chamber of Commerce. I beg to submit that the Government were quite justified in prohibiting the export of rice during the great war, I should also say that Government were quite justified in continuing the prohibition of the export of rice during the last famine. Rice was allowed to be exported by the Government even after the outbreak of the famine; but, Sir, I, though a rice merchant and so interested in the rice trade, raised my voice as a member of the Calcutta Corporation against the export, and I am grateful to the Government that on the suggestion of the Calcutta Corporation the Government of India were pleased to prohibit the export of rice altogether from India. But circumstances have materially altered since then; and, as I have already stated, there is a good rice crop in Bengal and in the adjoining provinces and there is a bumper rice crop in Burma. Assuming, Sir, for argument's sake, that there is no surplus rice crop in Bengal, still the Government of India have already ordered the import of one million tons of rice from Burma into India; certainly Bengal will get a certain quantity of Burma rice and that will be regarded as surplus for Bengal. Sir, my friends have been under the impression that a very heavy quantity of rice would be exported. I beg to submit that even in normal years before the outbreak of the war and the famine not more than 5 per cent. of the total outturn of rice was exported from India to

foreign countries. It may be said that in the case of wheat it was 20 per cent but in the case of rice and other food-grains it was not more than 5 per cent.

Then, Sir, there is a sort of rice called table rice, for which there is no demand in Bengal or, I may say, in India. The district of the 24-Parganas is the only district which produces it. It produces this sort of rice not for its own consumption but simply for export to foreign countries, and there has been a surplus of 20 thousand tons of this rice in Bengal and 50 thousand tons of this sort of rice is manufactured every year in this district. So, Sir, there can be no objection to the export of this quantity of rice, specially on the ground that it is not consumed generally in India.

Sir, with regard to the price of rice it may be said that it has materially come down and it is sure to come down further. I may mention that the price of *balam* rice, that is, the rice grown in the district of Bakarganj, which is the granary of Bengal, went up in 1919 to Rs. 10 per maund and that was the price of the rice of average quality. Last year it was from Rs. 8-8 to Rs. 9 per maund. It has come down to Rs. 7 per maund; and owing to the stagnation of rice in the district of Bakarganj as well as Calcutta I may be allowed to say that the price is sure to come down further. Then, Sir, in the case of Burma rice, last year its price in Calcutta was Rs. 7, but this year it has come down to Rs. 5 per maund, and this very morning it has come down to Rs. 4-12 per maund. It appears from the *Calcutta Gazette*, as well as from information I have received from the mufassal, that in seven districts of Bengal coarse rice is being sold at 7 seers per rupee and it is expected to come down further. Sir, if the export of rice is not allowed from India to foreign countries, the result will be disastrous, because the cultivators will decline to cultivate rice and will give preference to the cultivation of jute and other commercial products. It will appear from page 64 of the Government report on the inquiry of the rise of prices in India by Mr. K. L. Dutt, that the area of cultivation of jute has gone up from 1 to 1·4 per cent., but the area of cultivation of rice and other food-grains has come down from 81·3 to 78·2 per cent. And if, Sir, the prohibition of the export of rice be continued further, I am sure that will end in making a further reduction in the area of cultivation and the price of rice after a year or so would be prohibitive. Sir, if this state of things be continued, the trade in rice in India is sure to be diverted to other countries. Sir, India is not the only country in the world which produces rice; Siam is one of the countries, which produces a very heavy quantity of rice. There was a famine last year and the French Government were quite justified in prohibiting the export of rice from Siam to foreign countries. But this year, owing to there being a good crop, though not so much as in Bengal and not to speak of Burma, the French Government have been pleased to allow the export of rice from Siam to foreign countries. It appears also

from official papers that 750,000 tons of rice are expected to be exported this year from Siam to foreign countries. Similarly in the case of Saigon last year 1,300,000 tons of rice was allowed to be exported; and this year, as it appears from the report of the Director of Publicity, Burma, double the quantity is expected to be exported. Thus, Sir, there will come a time, if the export is not resumed, when the trade of India would be diverted to a great extent to other rice-producing countries. And we shall have a very bad result, because foreigners will be habituated to the use of Siam and Saigon rice instead of the Bengal rice.

Sir, my friend is under the impression—and that is the general impression of the public—that if the export of rice is resumed, its price will be prohibitive and a very heavy quantity of rice will be exported. That is, Sir, a very difficult question, I admit; but on inquiry I find that there are two things which stand in its way: I mean the credit of foreign countries and good crops in the other rice-producing countries of the world—and specially the rate of freight from Calcutta to foreign countries.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): You have exceeded the time-limit.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I ask for your special permission to go on, as it is an important subject.

The PRESIDENT: I am sorry I cannot go on allowing an infringement of the time-limit rule.

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: We have listened to three speeches from three distinct points of view and it will probably save the time of the Council if I intervene at this stage and explain what the attitude of Government is. In the first place, it is important to remember, as Babu Amulya Dhone Addy has pointed out, that this is a matter entirely for the decision of the Government of India. It is a central subject as it is technically called in the rules in connection with the Reforms Scheme, and all we can do with regard to the matter is to suggest or to recommend. That being so, it is rather surprising to me that none of the members who have spoken to-day have referred to the very important pronouncement of policy which was made by the Government of India on the 4th of December last. I do not complain of this omission; I know that there has necessarily been a great deal of ignorance and misapprehension as to the policy of the Government of India in regard to the rice trade. That policy has varied from time to time during the last three years; as conditions have changed, the orders on the subject have been altered; and it is not surprising that the general public and the members of this Council are not fully cognisant of what the policy of the Government of India for the time being is. I welcome this opportunity, therefore, of dispelling the misapprehensions which exist on the subject.

In the press *communiqué* of the 4th December last, to which I have already referred, the Government of India explain that in view of the recent heavy fall in the world prices of rice, it has been decided to modify considerably the system of control over the export of Burma rice to foreign countries—that is, the export overseas, with which the main resolution deals. They then discuss certain details regarding the prices of Burma rice, with which we are not concerned to-day, and go on to estimate that the total surplus rice available for export from Burma during the current year—1921—will amount approximately to 2,400,000 tons. They then say that the average amount of Burma rice taken by India previous to the introduction of control was about 850,000 tons annually; but, to be on the safe side, they estimate the needs of India at a maximum of 1,100,000 tons; that leaves a balance of 1,000,000 tons which has been allotted to export to foreign countries, subject to license from the Rice Commissioner in Burma. The important point to note about these orders is that they apply only to the export of rice from Burma. The Government of India clearly say that the existing prohibition on the export of rice from India proper to foreign countries will be retained, and that they believe that these measures will suffice to conserve adequate supplies for the consumer, both in India and in Burma, while ensuring that these supplies shall be available at reasonably cheap prices. I submit, therefore, that the action taken by the Government of India is in precise accord with what the mover of the resolution proposes. They have prohibited the export of rice from India altogether, but they have allowed the export of 1,000,000 tons from Burma, after taking care to see that the needs of Burma and of India are satisfied. I do not see what more the Government of India could have done, even if they had my friend at their elbow while they were formulating their policy.

I will now turn to the point of view advocated by Babu Amulya Dhone Addy that the time has come for the abolition of all restrictions on the export of rice from India overseas. He has practical acquaintance with the rice trade which I cannot claim to possess; and his views, which I believe are shared by many other members of this Council, are entitled to every respect. But, here again, we are up against the fact that this is an all-India question, and we are bound to carry out the orders of the Government of India on this subject; they have of course a much wider knowledge of all-India requirements and of the world requirements at large, than any provincial Government can possibly have. I have little doubt that the Government of India are anxious to get rid of control as soon as they feel that they can do so without undue risk to the interests of the rice consumer in India. But, Sir, from their recent declaration of policy, it would appear that they are of opinion that the time for doing away with the existing prohibition on the export of rice has not yet come. They will decide for themselves when the times comes. All that we can do at present is

to submit to them the views which have been expressed in this Council on the subject, and that we will do.

I now turn to the amendment, which asks the local Government to take steps immediately to put a stop to the export of rice from Bengal beyond such surplus quantity as may remain after meeting the demands of the province. This, of course, is a very different matter to the main resolution. The amendment raises the question of the control of inter-provincial rice exports. That is a subject with a long and complicated history behind it, but I am afraid I must go into that history because most of the members are unacquainted with it, but I will endeavour to make my remarks as brief as possible. In the autumn of 1918, the food situation was causing anxiety throughout the greater part of India. There were apparent reasons for apprehending a serious shortage of food in some provinces, due partly to the dislocation of trade caused by the long-drawn-out war but principally and to an even more important degree due to the shortage of the harvests in various parts of India. The Government of India therefore determined to meet the crisis which had arisen, by the institution of a system of control of inter-provincial rice exports. At that time, these measures were received with some alarm in Bengal, which had a bountiful harvest with a yield exceeding 8,000,000 tons during each of the years 1915, 1916 and 1917. The feeling of alarm in Bengal was voiced in the Imperial Legislative Council by the Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi of Cossimbazar, who asked what measures Government proposed to take for finding adequate markets for the overstocked province of Bengal. In reply, the Government of India stated that the surplus of the Bengal stocks would be wanted for other provinces: and, as a matter of fact, at that time, they treated Bengal as a surplus province. The Prices Inquiry Committee, to which reference has been made in the course of the debate, found fault with the Government of India's treatment of Bengal during the autumn of 1918, and have complained that the result of that action was to denude Bengal of its rice stock and to reduce the people to the brink of starvation. That is one of the disadvantages of control—that any action you take must be taken on incomplete information and that it will result in injury to someone or other and will naturally cause the injured person to develop a sense of grievance. This is the difficulty which Babu Amulya Dhone Addy has mentioned—the difficulty of ascertaining, for the purposes of this amendment, or even of the main resolution, the surplus quantity, after meeting the demands of the province or of the country. I am not going now to enter into any defence of the action taken by the Government of India. That will be done when we publish our resolution on the report of the Prices Inquiry Committee. I will go on with the history. The system of controlled export of the assumed Bengal rice surplus—if the members prefer that term—to other provinces which began in the

autumn of 1918 was followed by a rapid rise in the price of rice in Bengal itself. It may be observed that I say that the institution of control over exports was followed by a rise in price, because I do not admit that this system was the sole or even the main cause of the rise in price. A more important factor in the situation was probably, that the outturn of the 1918 rice crop in Bengal was less than 7,000,000 tons as compared with 8,000,000 tons in the three preceding years. However this may be, between January and August, 1919, the mean provincial price of rice in Bengal rose from Rs. 5-8 per maund to Rs. 10 per maund; and as most members of the Council will remember, there was during the rains of 1919 much perturbation throughout Bengal, amounting almost to a panic. The Government of India were approached and asked to restrict rice exports from Bengal, and in June, 1919, the Government of India reduced the allotments of Bengal rice for export to other provinces and arranged for the import of considerable quantities of Burma rice into Bengal. As a result the situation in Bengal improved considerably and prices between August and December, 1919, fell rapidly from Rs. 10 to Rs. 7 per maund; here again the situation was probably relieved to a great extent by the fact that the 1919 rice harvest was again a good one, the outturn again rising to about 8,000,000 tons. When prices began to improve in Bengal the Government of India suggested in October, 1919, that the control over rice exports from Bengal should be removed, but the Bengal Government objected and pressed for retention of the control until February, 1920, when the rice from the 1919 harvest would have come on to the market. In January, 1920, the Government of India again pressed for the removal of inter-provincial control; but the Bengal Government urged that, if this action were taken, there would be a considerable risk that the fall in prices would be arrested, and pointed out that in the conditions of the market as they then existed, the psychological effect of the removal of rice control would be out of proportion to the volume of export. In March, 1920, the Government of India raised the question for the third time and again asked the local Government to abolish the control, but the Bengal Government again urged that the situation was just beginning to show signs of stability and deprecated any change, unless it could be alleged that the conservation of supplies in Bengal was doing harm to the rest of India. The Government of India were not, however, moved from their purpose; and at the end of March, 1920, all restrictions on inter-provincial movements of rice were removed, and there have been no restrictions since. The amendment that we are now considering, asks us to move the Government of India to reimpose restrictions on the inter-provincial movements of rice, and we cannot hope to move the Government of India successfully in this matter unless we can show them that the removal of restrictions in March, 1920, was followed by disastrous results over the province, or that we have reason to believe that such disastrous results are likely

to arise in the near future. I will, therefore, proceed with the history of events subsequent to the removal of control in March, 1920. First with regard to the question of price. The price of rice rose slowly and fairly steadily from Rs. 7 a maund at the end of March, 1920, to nearly Rs. 9 a maund in September. But a very large part of this rise must be ascribed, not to the removal of control, but to the ordinary seasonal increase in the price of rice which usually occurs during the hot weather and the early part of the rains, after the harvest of the previous season has been disposed of, and before the prospects of the coming harvest can be properly estimated. Even more important than the question of prices, is the question of the actual exports of rice from Bengal which took place after the removal of control. During the six months following March, 1920, the total exports both by rail and river from Bengal amounted to only 97,832 tons, out of a total harvest of over 8 million tons. We may very fairly say, therefore, that the quantity exported on the removal of restrictions was negligible; and both in respect of prices, and in respect of export, the action taken by the Government of India in March, 1920, against the wishes of the Bengal Government must be held to have justified itself, and the gloomy forebodings were not justified. Since September last, the price of rice has fallen steadily from Rs. 9 a maund to rather less than Rs. 7 per maund. I believe it is now about Rs. 6-8. The price is not as low as we should like to see it, of course; it is not as low as it was before the war; but the Council are well aware that India is not the only country in which prices have increased to a very large extent since the war; and the latest statement prepared by the Director of Statistics of the prices of necessaries of life in the different countries of the world, shows that the rise in prices in India is very much less than what has occurred in any other country. In Belgium, prices have gone up by 353 per cent., in France by 273 per cent; in Great Britain by 164 per cent; in the United States of America by 86 per cent.; while in India they have gone up by only 66 per cent. I think we must admit, therefore, that India has suffered less from the dislocation of business caused by the war than any other country; and that the state of affairs in India, regrettable though it is, as pressing hardly on the poorer masses of the population, cannot be described as such as to justify extraordinary measures of interference with the normal flow of trade.

Another factor in our favour is that the 1920 rice harvest has again been a good one, amounting to over 8 million tons; we have no reason to anticipate any serious rise in price in the near future—certainly not a rise approaching the panic price which prevailed in 1919. I submit, therefore, that we have no case on any grounds for asking the Government of India to reinstitute measures of control over the inter-provincial export of rice. I need not weary the Council by recounting in detail what the theoretical objections to control are. They

will be found in any handbook of Political Economy. I will only mention a few facts which are on record as to the serious disadvantages which we found in the matter of control. There were constant complaints, while control was in force, that its interference with the normal channels of trade conduced to deficiency in supplies in areas where they were most needed, and that the difficulties and delay attendant on the opening of new channels inevitably conduced to a rise in prices. The delay involved in obtaining priority certificates intensified the difficulty of obtaining supplies, at least temporarily, while it was a frequent cause of complaint that merchants after obtaining priority certificates did not use them, and that supplies which were expected or required in a particular locality never reached that locality. It is certain that restrictions on traffic created an artificial shortage of supplies and an artificial high level of prices in many areas, although it may have had benefits in other areas, which to some extent counterbalanced the disadvantages of the system. We need not attempt to-day to decide whether the measures which were taken in 1918 and 1919 were justified by the results. I think we may take it as certain that control of the rice trade or any other trade is an evil in itself and that we ought not to impose such an evil unless we are reasonably certain that it will enable us to counteract greater evils. That is not the case to-day. The evils which exist from the present scale of prices are not sufficient to justify the dislocation of trade which would be caused by the reimposition of measures of control, and it is by no means certain that control would have the result of bringing down prices faster than they will come down of themselves if they are left to take their normal course. At any rate, the local Government feel that they have no sufficient justification for asking the Government of India to reimpose control on the inter-provincial movements of rice in India itself. If there was any justification, the local Government would not hesitate to move the Government of India on the subject. The history, which I have given, shows that the Bengal Government have never hesitated to ask the Government of India to impose, or to continue measures of control, even when such action was against the policy and the wishes of the Government of India. But at present the Bengal Government feel that they have no ground to move the Government of India to take such action. The Bengal Government's attitude in regard to this question may therefore be summed up as follows. We have no objection to the main resolution of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri because it merely describes what is at present the declared policy of the Government of India in regard to the exportation of rice from India overseas. We are not, however, prepared to accept the amendment or ask the Government of India to take action in accordance with the proposal contained in it. The record of this discussion will, however, as I have said before, be submitted to the Government of India for consideration.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: It is in response to a call of duty, not only to myself but to the country, that I rise to accord my unhesitating support to the resolution which has just been placed before the House by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri. It is a fact which may not be known to many of us that it is India (which includes Burma), as well as Indo-China and Siam, which supplies the necessities of the rest of the world. In the year 1913—I have got figures to show—these three countries between themselves supplied 94 I per cent. The actual quantity was 24½ lakhs of tons The three countries to which India sent out her rice were the United Kingdom, Ceylon and the Straits Settlements. While Ceylon consumed the whole of it, it is significant that the United Kingdom re-exported a large quantity of what she took The same remark applies to the Straits Settlements also I do not, as a matter of principle, oppose exports from India of any commodities whatever, but the question is whether or not the time has come when the Government should impose restrictions upon export of rice. Sir John Kerr has told us that such a course was called for in 1918 and that course was adopted with the sanction of the Government of India on the recommendation of the Government of Bengal. That shows undoubtedly that the Government of Bengal is solicitous of the welfare of the people and that they are sympathetic Hon'ble Mr Kerr now says that there is no occasion whatsoever for making this recommendation to the Government of India. Sir, we should remember one fact, and that is this There has been a bumper crop this year all over Bengal. That is the report My friend, Babu Amulya Dhone Addy, has said so, and I do not differ from him in this respect May I ask then, Sir, if there is such a bumper crop, which is admitted on all hands, why is it that the prices do not come down? What is the reason? Last year the prices ranged between Rs 6-8 and Rs. 7-2 at the producing centre. I refer to Bakarganj. That is my information. But this year, Sir, the prices in the producing centre are ranging between Rs. 7 and Rs. 7-2. Why is this so? The reason is not far to seek. It is because large quantities are being sent out of the country and large quantities are being held by persons for the foreign market—by profiteers as my friend on the left puts it into my mouth. They are holding this immense stock and all this is meant for the foreign market. I think the time has come for us to make some recommendation to the Government of India, and unless this is done, can you imagine what will happen in June and July when the prices invariably go up? there is a difference—a normal difference—of Re. 1-8 per maund between the prices in the season time and in June and July. It is Rs. 7 now in the producing centre and in Calcutta Rs. 9-8 or Rs. 10. I hold in my hands at the present moment a comparative statement showing the price which ruled in December, 1919, and in December, 1920. It is this. The price in 1919 was Rs. 8 per maund, whereas it was as high as Rs. 8-8 to Rs. 9 per maund in December, 1920. And, Sir, we apprehend a

further increase in the price of rice in future. Provision should be made against that. I sound the tocsin of alarm. I ask the Government to take time by the forelock and I am glad that assurances have been given to us by Hon'ble Mr. Kerr that, if the occasion demands, such a recommendation would be made by this Government to the Government of India. I hope that the contingency will not arise. But I apprehend that there will be a serious rise in price if export is not prohibited and the inter-provincial restrictions are not re-imposed from now. I plead for the poor. It is the sacred duty of the Government to save the lives of millions of people which are entrusted to their care. Last year, we were sorry to note, at least seven persons died of sheer starvation or committed suicide in my own district because they could not get food. I hold in my hands a document which gives the details. This report is for September, 1920. It is a Government report and it shows that death in one case was due to poverty, in another case to poverty and illness, in another case, partly on account of illness and partly on account of starvation, and so on. These are of course isolated cases and they do not mean much. I admit that. But are these reports full enough, are they comprehensive enough, having regard to the fact that they are generally gathered from the village chaukidars?

It is my earnest prayer to Government that they should give us this assurance that, if necessary, the restrictions on the inter-provincial export of rice should be re-imposed. I can give this House an idea of the actual quantity of rice which passed out of Calcutta during the nine months from April, 1919, to January, 1920. This shows that during this period the exports were 42 lakhs of maunds. In the year 1919-20 it was 22 lakhs, but this report is not conclusive because it merely shows the exports by sea, foreign and coastways. Unfortunately we have no statistics whatsoever for showing what quantities actually passed out of Calcutta by rail, by boat and by canal. If they were available we could have certainly shown that the exports from Calcutta very much exceeded 22 lakhs. There is another fact: the Government statistics—the statistics of the Government of India have given us some figures of the exports, but unfortunately those statistics do not show what quantities were actually purchased by Government and sent out of the country by their chartered vessels. That is the position of the rice trade in Bengal. While Bengal produces rice, which is the principal food-stuff of the country, in such huge quantities, I cannot understand why her people should die of starvation. This is a question which I have not been able to understand, that in a country which produces the food-stuff and sends out millions of tons to different countries, how is it that in that very country the people should die of starvation and pay fancy and famine prices for their food-grains? I therefore venture to say with confidence that our Government will agree with us that it is absolutely necessary to keep down the prices

within a reasonable limit, so that the people may not die of starvation. There is no denying the fact that the people of Bengal are poor. We have the considered opinion of no less an authority than His Excellency the Viceroy and the present Secretary of State. What we do want is that the poor people who are already feeling the pinch of poverty may not die of starvation. Whether this can be achieved by the imposition of restrictions upon exports from province to province or by the adoption of some other like measure does not matter. It ought to be remembered that 208 millions of people of India live on cultivation: they are poor. If the price of rice is Rs. 8 per maund a man requires 5 maunds for his own use, which means Rs. 40 in rice alone. And what is the average income of one individual in our poor country? I believe I do not use any language of exaggeration when I say that it does not very much exceed Rs. 40 a year, and apart from that, how much tax has he got to pay? That is the reason why I pray that all of us should unite in our demand for a sheer act of justice. It is the duty of Government to see that none of His Majesty's subjects in our country perished from hunger and that the prices of food-stuffs were kept down within reasonable limits. I do not suggest for a moment that the export should be completely stopped and that rice should not be allowed to go out. Let the rice be sent out by all means, but let sufficient stocks be kept in our country for feeding the people who are tilling the fields and producing rice.

At this stage the member, having reached the time-limit, had to resume his seat.

Mr. C. W. RHODES: After hearing the lucid statement of the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr, I should have not have wished to intervene in the debate but for the fact that at the close of the debate I heard Mr. Kerr say that a record of this discussion will be forwarded to Delhi and under such circumstances I think it is necessary to state the views of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on the subject of control.

In the first instance, may I congratulate the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr on the knighthood bestowed upon him by the last speaker? I am sure he only anticipates His Majesty's action by a very short space of time. The Hon'ble Mr. Kerr in his trenchant speech draws attention to the fact that we are only holding this discussion by the courtesy of His Excellency the Governor. Under Rule 17 of the Devolution Rules this is an Imperial subject and not a provincial one. Ample justification for this is to be found in the amendment which has been moved. It is obviously the desire of Mr. Dutta to build a commercial wall around Bengal in order that we may enjoy the harvest produced in the province while our neighbours in the Central Provinces, where I believe there is a shortage, are left to their fate. I can assure the Council that the commercial community are heartily sick both of high prices and of control. We want to get back to normal trading, and

we believe that it is in the interest of the people themselves that we should do so as soon as possible. After the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr's statement I am quite prepared to aquiesce in the resolution, but I would strongly urge that control should not continue a single hour longer than is absolutely necessary. So long as control exists and so long as trade is hampered, there is no hope of resumption of pre-war conditions. In other words, there is no hope of removing the present burden of high prices which admittedly presses so heavily on the people. I do not wish to enter deeply into the thorny question of exchange. The effect of placing restrictions on the export of rice and wheat causes the people of this country to pay more for their cloth and for everything else they import. The last speaker has mentioned sad cases of suicide, owing to poverty. This poverty, we were told two years ago, caused suicide because the people could not clothe themselves. In other words, what the people will gain in rice purchase they will lose in buying their cloth. Mr. Dutta would not care, he tells us, whether all the import or export trade is abolished. He would like India to produce its own cloth. He probably does not realise that the Bombay mills were working almost up to the fullest pressure last year, and yet Bengal for its requirements had to import 40 crores worth of cloth from Japan and Europe. I am quite willing to support the resolution, but the commercial community here strongly urge the Government of India to relax all control at the earliest possible date, not only in the interest of commerce but chiefly in the interest of the people.

Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: I am sorry I have to oppose the resolution proposed by my friend. The question of the prohibition of the export of rice even in famine times was carefully gone into by Lord Northbrook in 1873, and it was not found advisable to impose any restriction on the free flow of export and import even in times of scarcity and famine. During the war, the export of rice was controlled, and I have personal knowledge of the inconveniences of restriction. It does not bring down prices; but on the other hand, it makes a free and full supply difficult. Moreover, it will be extremely difficult to arrive at the exact figure in calculating what amount will be required for consumption and what surplus will be left for exportation. Then there is a large Indian population in Ceylon, Natal and the West Indies who use Indian rice; and if a free supply is denied them they will be very much inconvenienced and result in a loss to India. Any restriction on the free export of rice will be a source of loss to the bulk of the population who are agriculturists and their interest should on no account be overlooked. We know about 90 per cent. of the people of Bengal depend on agriculture and they will have to accept lower prices for rice if export is restricted, while they will have to pay high prices for other necessaries of life.

Under the circumstances, I cannot help opposing the resolution which, if accepted, will seriously interfere with trade.

Rai ABINASH CHANDRA BANERJEE Bahadur: After hearing the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr's speech on the subject, all that I should like to say is that as Government are willing to take action in accordance with the resolution of the mover, I think the mover of the amendment should withdraw it and the resolution be passed by the House.

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: The policy of the mover provides the surest means of frustrating his object.

Nothing stimulates home production like export trade. What is it which stimulates the manufacture of cotton goods in Lancashire and the cultivation of jute in Bengal? If we borrow our political institutions from England, why should we not study the economic history of England, and see whether England's experience is of any use to us?

Four hundred years ago in the reign of King Henry VIII, when Babar was the Emperor at Delhi, conditions in England were comparable in some respects with those now prevailing in Bengal. Prices were rising, and wages, as is usual, were not rising as rapidly as prices, and there was industrial unrest. The demand of Europe for English wool caused a tendency in England to substitute sheep farming for wheat growing, even as the world's demand for jute has led many cultivators in Bengal to grow jute to their profit in place of rice. King Henry VIII tried in two ways to meet this situation. He first tried to restrict sheep farming, as some people wish to restrict jute growing. In this attempt he failed altogether, for the simple reason that nothing has ever prevented the cultivator from growing the crop which pays him best. Later he adopted the policy of encouraging the export of wheat, and he and his successors actually gave bounties on exported wheat, and by this means he encouraged farmers to grow wheat with the knowledge that if there was a bumper crop and a surplus they would nevertheless get a good price for their produce.

If effect be given to this resolution, then 10 per cent. of the people of the province who are non-agriculturists will be benefited no doubt. But in Bengal 90 per cent. of the people are agriculturists and they will suffer by it. If we do not always hear a great outcry amongst the masses for the high price of cloth and other everyday necessaries of life, it is for the reason of their getting a better price for rice, the produce of their lands. If the price of rice only is reduced, leaving other things as they are, then it will be very hard on the said 90 per cent., and as a rural representative I oppose the resolution.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I wish very much that my friend, the mover of the resolution, had waited for the publication of the Government resolution on the report of the High Prices Inquiry Committee, which sat in pursuance of a resolution of the old Council in the months of August, September, October and November. I was the Chairman of that committee and my friend, Babu Kishori Mohan

Chaudhuri, was one of its members. For four months we took evidence and went into the question as thoroughly as could be done in the circumstances. It appears that the high prices of all food-stuffs, which now prevail in the country, are intimately connected with the export of food-stuffs overseas and also inter-provincially. That was the conclusion at which we arrived. We as members of the old Council moved resolution after resolution in the year 1919 and in the year 1920 for the Government to take such steps as might be necessary to reduce the price of food-stuffs and other necessaries of life. So far as we are aware and as the evidence before us disclosed, the Government of India were not very sympathetic towards Bengal. In fact, last year in spite of the protest of the Government of Bengal, the Government of India removed the restrictions on the inter-provincial export of rice. My friend, Babu Amulya Dhone Addy, has said that we cannot ascertain what the surplus quantity of rice in the country is and we must do away with all restrictions as to the export of rice. Well, it is a well-known fact, which has been established by statisticians and others in this country, that we require in normal times 50 millions of tons of food-stuffs for the people of this country, and 15 millions of tons of food-stuffs for the cattle, *i.e.*, we require 65 millions of tons of food-stuffs for human consumption and for cattle. We can very well ascertain what the produce of the country is. If that can be done and if we are convinced, and if the Government are convinced also that we have got not only 65 millions of tons of food-stuffs in the country but also excess quantity, then of course Government can remove all restrictions on the export of rice or any other food-stuffs. We also know that we must guard against eventualities. We hear of famines once in three or four years, and unless there be not only surplus crops but reserve stocks for the people of this country we ought not to allow indiscriminate export of rice from the country. I said in 1919 in moving a resolution about the high prices of food-stuffs that, whenever the produce of the country exceeds the wants of the people, the surplus could be freely exported, that is to say, any food-stuffs in excess of the requirements of the people could be exported to any foreign country that was in need of such food-stuffs. It is not only the people of Bengal but also the Darjeeling tea planters who raised the tocsin of alarm in the year 1919. They said, I mean the Darjeeling Planters' Association, in the year 1919 in a petition which they submitted to the Government that the export of rice from Bengal ought to be stopped at once on the principle that the people must have sufficient to feed them before any Government would allow any exportation, and that measures should be taken for the import of Burma rice to this country. So it appears that in a country where we have got at least such a stock as is sufficient to maintain the people of this country the people starve and the people have to purchase rice at famine prices. Formerly in this country when the price of rice rose to Rs. 6 it was considered as famine price. Now, however, what do we find? Rupees 8-8

for coarse *balam* rice! In this year when we hear that there is a bumper crop all round the country and in all the provinces, what do we find? I hear from Mr Tarit Bhusan Roy, who is probably an authority on the subject, that in the field the price is Rs 7-8. In the last week of December I heard that in the Diamond Harbour subdivision of the 24-Parganas district the price of rice was Rs. 5, but within a very short time the price rose to Rs 7 and Rs 7-8, a price which is much more than famine price. It is the duty and solemn duty of Government to take all possible steps to ameliorate the condition of the people and to take such steps as may be necessary to place the staple article of food of all of us within the means of the people

In July, 1920, in moving a resolution about the high prices of food, I said that the Government which carries on the administration of the country, ought to know the exact reason for this abnormal rise in price It was then stated that the high price was due to speculative trading with a view to export. When, however, it was notified by Government that free export would not be allowed, the price of rice declined to a certain extent. So you will be pleased to see that the high price of our food-stuffs is intimately connected with export, *i.e.*, if you prohibit export then there is a certain fall in the price of our stood-stuffs. That being the case, I hope the Government will take such steps as may be necessary to prohibit the export of rice. In fact, that is also one of the recommendations of our committee We see that during the progress of the war export of rice from Bengal declined from 1916 to 1918, leading to a lowering of price After the armistice with the increase in shipping facilities the export increased, and consequently the price of rice in Bengal went up Under these circumstances I support the resolution of my friend, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: As so many members in this Council have spoken on the resolution, silence on the part of the representative of the landholders of Bengal might be misunderstood by the House. I therefore rise to oppose the resolution as well as the amendment. The Government took an extraordinary measure in stopping the export of rice only to meet an extraordinary situation brought about by the war and the failure of the rice crop in several parts of India. But, Sir, circumstances are quite different now, and the Government of India were quite justified in removing the restrictions from India proper We have no objection to a judicious regulation of export, but to stop the export of rice altogether, as suggested by the mover of the resolution, is a most serious affair and would only result in a considerable fall in the price of rice This, Sir, in turn will greatly affect the interests of the cultivators, whose main source of income is the price which they obtain by selling their surplus produce. The zamindars would also suffer in consequence; but the stoppage of export will not help our countrymen much, as my

esteemed friend seems to think. The Bengal cultivators, who form the bulk of the population, are clever enough to keep sufficient stock in hand. They only sell what they grow in excess of their requirements and this enables them to pay their rent and meet other expenses. The only section of the public who would be benefited by this measure is a small section of landless people, but these people have other sources of income, and the general rise in wages has placed them nowadays in a much better position than the raiyats of the country. It would be most improper to help these people at the cost of the cultivators and, I may say, zamindars. I therefore oppose the resolution as well as the amendment.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: I rise to support whole-heartedly the resolution moved by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri. It is with a very laudable object that this resolution has been brought before the House. I think the resolution wants to supply the cultivators of Bengal with their necessaries of life and to save them from the various diseases which they are subject to. I think no other measure would be so beneficial to the peasantry of Bengal as this one. Last year we heard that there were many suicides on account of the scarcity of rice, but this year I find that some members suggest that it would be detrimental to the interests of the peasantry of Bengal if the export is going to be stopped. The cultivators who produce rice generally live from hand to mouth; they do not require more than a small piece of cloth round their loins in this warm climate, but they cannot live without food. As they have to labour very hard under the scorching sun they must have food in sufficient quantity. I do not agree with the gentlemen who say that it would be detrimental to the interests of the peasantry if rice be made cheap. Our first duty is to consider how we can ensure two full meals for the cultivators every day, but we do not want to stop the export of any surplus quantity. It is said that this year there is a prospect of a good crop in Bengal, but the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr has said it is not a bumper crop. I beg to remind the House that the scarcity of last year was due to the export of paddy from this land, so we should not be so improvident now because there is a prospect of a good crop. There are places where on account of the early rains or rain when it was not wanted, the yield of crop has not been as it should have been; the outturn is really very poor. Therefore I say that it behoves us to make such provision as is necessary for the peasantry of Bengal. It is said that Java would not supply us with sugar if we did not supply paddy to them. I submit our peasantry is not very fond of sugar, but they care more for a better quality of rice than that which comes from Burma. They consider the Burma rice most unpalatable, and it is only at the time of famine they take Burma rice though most reluctantly. The Hon'ble Mr. Kerr has said that the stoppage of export is a matter for the consideration of the Government of India, but in this resolution we also ask that the Government of

India be approached on the subject. Since the High Prices Committee, which was formed by Government, have suggested (according to the statement of our Deputy-President) that the surplus export should be stopped, I do think we ought to support them. It is very short-sighted policy to suggest that because some people have surplus paddy they must be allowed to export. The resolution aims at conferring the greatest good on the greatest number. We must take into consideration the interests of the peasantry of Bengal and not of a few paddy dealers. I therefore whole-heartedly support the resolution of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri.

I beg to submit that I cannot support the amendment moved by my friend, Mr. Dutta. Bengal is bounded by Bihar, Assam, Burma and other provinces. If there is a stoppage of export from Bengal the Biharis will resent it. Purnea is the bordering district of Dinajpur. When there is scarcity of crop in Dinajpur people go to Purnea or Malda. If you are going to stop export from Dinajpur to Purnea they may in turn do so, so there will be recrimination, which is not desirable. We must stop the export to foreign countries only and not to other provinces. I therefore oppose the amendment.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, COMMERCE DEPARTMENT (Mr. A. Marr): I only wish to point out to the Council that the resolution moved by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri has already been accepted by Government and accurately represents the position taken up by the Government of India. Therefore it seems to be rather a waste of the time of the Council to discuss this resolution at all. I think the discussion might well be confined to the question of restriction of inter-provincial export of rice as moved in the amendment of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the mover of the amendment to reply if he chooses.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: First of all, as regards the question of jurisdiction that has been raised by the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr, I should like to say that when this resolution and the amendment have been allowed by the President I think we have enough jurisdiction to bring it here and discuss it as much as possible. Moreover, when we find that the people of Bengal are suffering on account of high prices of rice, it is the duty of every member of this Council to bring up the subject and send their representation to the Bengal Government for approaching the Government of India. This is a very small matter, and I do not wish to say much. Sir, the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr has pointed out that three times the Government of India approached the Government of Bengal to take away the restrictions on inter-provincial movement of rice and the Bengal Government refused to listen twice, but on the third occasion they were overruled. I should like to know the reason why three times the Bengal Government refused to remove restrictions;

they must have had good reasons. Mr. Kerr has asked whether the removal of the restrictions in March, 1920, has been followed by anything extraordinary in Bengal to justify us in going up to the Government of India to impose restrictions again. I have got a piece of paper—a supplement to the *Calcutta Gazette* of 29th December, 1920, a month and half ago—which contains information about six cases of death due to privation and starvation. Is it not enough to take up this question seriously? I think that if there is one death which is due to high prices that is enough for any civilised Government to take steps to prevent such privations. I think there is enough justification to induce the Government of Bengal to go up to the Government of India again to impose restrictions on the inter-provincial movement of rice.

Sir, Babu Annulya Dhone Addy has said that the area under cultivation of rice is already going down, and, if we lower the price of rice, it will go down more and more, but I am afraid he has not looked into the facts as far as Bengal is concerned. I find that in 1911-12 the area under cultivation was 20 million acres and in 1918-19 it was 21,330,000 acres. That does not show diminution but that it is going up, and I hope it will go up gradually, especially when we find that the price of jute is going down year after year. I have said what I have got to say. Many members who have been pleased to support the resolution of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri have suggested that our first duty is to see that prices in Bengal go down. I should like to ask them, will stoppage of export from India serve that purpose? Unless this question of inter-provincial movement is taken up separately the price of rice will not go down, so I request the members to consider this question favourably and vote in favour of my amendment.

Mr. R. M. WATSON-SMYTH: I move that the question be now put.

The PRESIDENT: As this is a very important resolution I think it would be an infringement of the right of reasonable debate if I put the closure now.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I do not think that any reply is necessary as the Government is going to accept my resolution. I do not say that all the other recommendations of the High Prices Committee should be rejected, but I say that, pending the consideration of those questions, this main proposal of mine should be considered first and the export from India over and above the surplus quantity should be stopped.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I propose that the question be now put.

The PRESIDENT: The Council stands adjourned till 6-5 P.M.

The Council re-assembled at 6-5 P.M. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's amendment was then put and lost. The original motion was then put.

The PRESIDENT: I think that the Ayes have it.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: If it is your decision that the Aye have it, I will not press for a division.

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: I press for a division

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: I support this.

The result of the division was as follows:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Mesbah Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Donald, Mr. J.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Faroqui, K. C. M.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Hopkyns, Mr W S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Khan, Maulvi Hami-ud-din.
Lang, Mr. J.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Maitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Makramali, Munshi.
Marr, Mr. A.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. R
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

NOES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Afzal, Khan Bahadur, Nawabzada K. M.
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Birla, Babu Chaneshyamdas.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr C. H.
Chaudhuri, Sir Ashutosh.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Morgan, Mr. C.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Poddar, Babu Keshoram.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Rao, Mr. W. R.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Mr. J. E.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh.
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Suhrawardy, Mr. Z. R. Zahid.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Watson-Smyth, Mr. R. M.

The Ayes being 63 and the Noes 31, the motion was carried.

Supply of Gazettes, etc.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "This Council recommends to the Government that steps be taken by the local Government to arrange for a regular supply free of cost to the members of the Bengal Legislative Council of the *Calcutta Gazette* and other Bengal Government publications, and the legislative portion and the portion containing the proceedings of the Legislatures of the *India Gazette* and all other provincial Gazettes."

Without taking up time I simply submit this resolution for the consideration of the House. If we are to do any legislative work, if we are to render any help to the Legislature, I think we should be well informed. Economy and efficiency must go hand in hand. As I understand that my friend the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr is going to make a statement on behalf of the Government in this matter, I think no speech on my part is necessary.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): This is a comparatively simple matter, but it touches the convenience of all the members of this House. It will be convenient if I say at once what Government propose to do about it.

In the old Legislative Council there were definite rules about the supply of official literature to members. These rules, so far as we know, worked satisfactorily and we propose to continue them, and to modify them later, if experience shows this to be necessary. So far as the publications of the Bengal Government are concerned, each member will receive a copy of the *Calcutta Gazette* which is published weekly, a copy of the Bengal Civil List which is published quarterly, and a copy of the proceedings of this Council as soon as they are printed.

As regards the other publications of the Bengal Government there are a considerable number of them. The Book Depôt issues a monthly list of the publications published during the month. A copy of this list will be sent to each member of the Council, and he will be asked to mark on the list any publication which he wants to possess, and a copy will then be sent to him. I have here a copy of the latest list which was issued by the Book Depôt. It includes the "Annual Return of the Lunatic Asylums in Bengal," the "Administration Report on the Bengal Jails," the "Triennial Report on the Registration Department" and the Report of the Committee which manages the Calcutta Zoo. (Laughter.)

I think very few members of this Council will desire to possess all of these publications; some members may not want to see them at all. Anyhow, I think it will be a convenient arrangement if members will be good enough to mark on the list the publications they want. So far as to the publications of the Bengal Government.

The resolution asks us, so far as I understand it, to supply each member, each individual member of this Council, with a complete set of the proceedings of all the other legislative bodies in India. This is rather a large order, larger perhaps than Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri realises. There are seven provincial Legislative Councils in India, excluding the Bengal Legislative Council, and there are two Imperial legislative bodies, the Council of State and the Indian Legislative Assembly. I do not know what the annual cost of the proceedings of these bodies will be, but if we assume that they will sit for 50 days a year on the average and issue their proceedings at the low cost of 8 annas a day, it will cost over Rs. 30,000 to supply each member of this Council with a complete set of these proceedings. I think the Council will agree with me that this would be an unnecessarily extravagant arrangement. Many of these proceedings will have no interest whatever for Bengal, and many Bengal members, I am sure, would consider it a nuisance rather than otherwise, to be supplied with mounds of literature in this way. What we propose to do, however, is to subscribe for a complete set of the publications of these legislative bodies. This set will be kept in the Council library here for reference. If we find that one set is insufficient, we shall subscribe for an additional set. We fully recognise, of course, that the increased activities of this Council will probably lead to an increased demand for official literature of various kinds, and if the demand arises, we will do our best to meet it as far as we reasonably can, but I think the Council will agree with me that things had better start in this way and develop as experience may show to be necessary instead of launching at once on the rather extravagant proposal contained in this resolution. I would therefore suggest to the member that he should withdraw his resolution on the understanding that arrangements will be made for the present on the lines which I have described, and that they will be developed as the need for development becomes apparent.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: After what has fallen from the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr, I shall not press my resolution. The arrangement now proposed to be made will satisfy us for the present, and hereafter, if the activities of the Council increase, and we see any difficulty, we shall again approach the Government. I beg leave to withdraw the resolution.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Motions under section 52(1) of the Government of India Act.

Salaries of Ministers.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur moved "that the salary of a Minister be fixed at the amount of the salary of the Under-Secretary of State for India, *i.e.*, at £1,500 a year."

It is rather hard for a man of a weak constitution like me to be called upon to speak at such a late hour of the day as half past six; but, Sir, I shall do my work

I beg to move that the salary of a Minister be fixed at the amount of the salary of the Under-Secretary of State for India, *i e*, at £1,500 a year. I have put the figure £1,500 not because I love pounds more than rupees, but I have put it just to point out that that is the salary of the Under-Secretary of State for India, that is, the salary which Lord Sinha got while he was in England It is for that reason that I have put it in pounds To me, Sir, there is no option left in this matter This was the plank upon which I sought election from the graduates of Bengal and I cannot now recede from that position Sir, the voice of the country has been expressed in unequivocal terms in a hundred public meetings There have been public meetings in every district calling upon their representatives to vote for this resolution Whether they will do their duty or not is not for me to see There has been a meeting at Burdwan, the city of the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, where they settled that the salary should be Rs 1,000 a month There has been a meeting at Krishnagar, the city of the Maharaja of Krishnagar, who sits in my front But what these gentlemen will do now, I cannot say Their duties are clear

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: May I rise to a point of order, Sir? I may be the Maharaja of Burdwan, but I am here as a Member of Government and I have nothing to do with public meetings at Burdwan

The PRESIDENT: Yes, the speaker should make no personal reference to any member, direct or indirect

Rai JOCENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: The people of India are the poorest among the nations of the earth They are so poor and consequently despised that the white settlers of Canada, Australia and South Africa refuse them admission on the ground of their lower standard of living Now, Sir, let us see what these countries, proud of their wealth and high standard of living, pay to their Ministers I find that in Canada the Prime Minister gets less than Rs 3,000 a month All the other high Ministers get less than Rs 1,000 a month In Australia, in New South Wales, there are 12 Chief Ministers, including the Prime Minister, who all together get £11,040, *i e* most of them get £800 a year each In South Australia, £5,000 is allotted to the Prime Minister and five other Ministers, and six Ministers get about £810 a year each In Queensland, the Premier and the Vice-President of the Executive Council get £1,300 each and the other Ministers get £1,000 a year each In Tasmania, the Prime Minister gets £950 a year and the other Members of the Executive Council get £750 a year. In Western Australia, the Prime Minister gets £1,500

and the other Members of the Executive Council get £1,300 a year. In New Zealand, the Prime Minister gets £1,600 a year and the other Ministers and the Members of the Executive Council get £1,000 a year each. In South Africa, the Members of the Executive Council of the Governor-General, whose status and functions are analogous to those of the Governor-General of India, each gets £2,500 a year. In Japan—an Asiatic Empire—one of the greatest powers on earth, who conquered the Russians and founded the empire which is dreaded by the British themselves—so dreaded that they have sought an alliance with it for the protection of India—in that country what does the Prime Minister get? He gets Rs 1,750 a month Other Cabinet Ministers get about Rs 1,200 a month each. In the United States, the Ministers get about Rs 2,500 a month each. You must remember the United States is the richest country on earth—the creditor of Great Britain and France—whose debts Britain and France are finding it very difficult to pay The Presidents of the Legislative Councils in Australia get about £750 a year. Sir, the duty of the representatives of the people is clear They are to look to the interests of their countrymen first. But in this country we are guided by motives other than patriotic We, being a subject race, always look to the men in power, and the men of wealth and men enjoying high salaries are our patrons and we are always anxious to go to their tea-parties, to dance attendance upon them and to vote just as they desire.

Sir, I have been pressed with many arguments, and even the threat of a dissolution of this House has been levelled at me. I cannot be guided by these considerations—hopes and fears should not influence the action of a man who wants to do his duty Now, Sir, let us consider the objections to the reduction of salaries one by one The first objection is that the Ministers require Rs. 64,000 because they will have to entertain their friends and high officials as the Members of the Council But I do not desire that any entertainments should be given at the public expense The objection has no weight with me. The second objection is that there should be a loss of prestige. Now, gentlemen, you all know that Mr. Hughes, Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Prime Ministers of Canada and Australia, whom the Sovereign delights to honour, and who are among the greatest statesmen in the British Empire, all get less than £2,000 a year. Has there been in their case a loss of prestige? Now, gentlemen, you all know that Count Ito got Rs 1,706 a month. Was he on that account less revered than the greatest statesmen of Europe? Remember that Marshal Neogi, the conqueror of the Russians, whose commands 3 millions of Japanese soldiers regarded as the commands of God, and at whose command they rushed to fill up the ditches with their dead bodies, got only Rs 1,000 a month.

Now, Sir, let us come to India. You have all heard about Chanakya, the great Kautilya, the exterminator of the Nandas of the

Puranas. It was he who exterminated the great Imperial House of the Nandas, at the fame of whose power, the Greek soldiers under Alexander the Great recoiled in fear. These Nandas were exterminated by a poor Brahmin, Chanakya. And, you all know how he defeated the Greek invader, Seleucus the Great, and obtained for his master the daughter of the great Greek King for wife. But you have not heard of his boast that he, the exterminator of the Nandas, was descended from an ancient family of Rishis and that he took no remuneration from his master, the greatest Emperor of his time, whom he raised to power by his own efforts. He was poor in the world's riches, but was endowed beyond the common with the heritage of the learning of his ancestors.

Coming to later times, Vijnaneswara—many of you here have read his book, the *Mitakshara*—conquered for his master, Vikramaditya the Sixth of Kalyana, all the country from the snow-clad Himalayas to the seas in the south. He, the most learned among the jurists of India, was a mere Vaishnava Yogee who took nothing for himself. Coming to more modern times we come to Madhava—those of you who have read the *Stories of Nations* must have seen the picture of two poor young men, Bukka Roy and Harihar, who became the greatest kings of the south of India. Do you know by whom they were made kings? They were made kings by this Madhava—a poor Brahmin more learned than any man of his time, who took no salary whatsoever.

The PRESIDENT: I do not think that all what Madhava did, and so on, has anything to do with the resolution. You want indirectly to show that the Ministers of the present day in comparison with these persons are not half as good. I do not think that these arguments have any relevancy to the matter under discussion.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I am glad, however, that you stopped me when I finished the examples.

What I was going to tell you is this: that in ancient times in India the wealth of the country was with the Vaisyas and the Banias and high salaries were never considered as a ground for prestige and honour. Prestige and honour were only conferred on learning and power. The argument based on prestige has therefore no weight with me, whose mind, fortunately or unfortunately, is steeped in the old ideas.

Next, we are told that there will be a difference in status, because of the difference in salary of an Executive Councillor and that of a Minister. When I gave notice of this motion, I also gave notice of a motion that this Council should recommend to the Supreme Government that the salary of an Executive Councillor should also be reduced. My motion was disallowed and thus we are helpless. But, what is in our power we ought to do. Mr. Dadabhoi Naoroji said 35 years ago in burning words that the high salaries consequent on a foreign Government are the cause of the poverty of the people.

The PRESIDENT: You must face the President while addressing.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I am addressing you, but I have sometimes to change my posture.

The PRESIDENT: But you turned your back to the chair. If you do not listen, I shall have to stop you.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I shall be only too glad if you do so. (Cries of "Order," "Order.")

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I was telling you that Mr. Dadabhoi said 35 years ago that the high salaries consequent on a foreign Government, if not remedied, would lead ultimately to a bloody revolution. Now, that it has been placed in our power by the beneficent Government to order our own house according to our means, we should rise to the occasion and reduce the salary according to the circumstances of the poor country.

Next, it should be remembered that once we reduce the salaries of the Ministers, all other high salaries are bound to be reduced in time.

I have to make an appeal to the European members of the Council. The report of the proceedings of the Joint Committee tells us that that Committee was of opinion that the salaries of the Ministers were too high and that they should be less than the salaries of the Executive Councillors. I understand that Mr. Bhupendra Nath Bose, who had the largest share in the framing of these regulations, at first proposed that the salary of Ministers should be only Rs. 3,000 a month. But there was an agitation; and what did the Joint Committee do? They did not fix the salary at the same amount as that of the Members of the Executive Council, but they were wise enough to leave to the elected members of the new Council to decide whether they should reduce these salaries or not. That stage has now come. And if we, the elected members of the new Council, consider that, in view of the stringency of the finances, it is desirable to fix the salary of Ministers at a figure not higher than that of the Prime Minister of Japan, should you by your votes defeat the object of the majority of the elected members?

At this stage the speaker, having reached the time-limit, had to resume his seat.

The PRESIDENT: There are certain amendments to all the resolutions regarding the salary of Ministers. But I think that now that the first resolution has been moved, it is better that before any discussion takes place, those who have given notice of the adjournment of the question be given an opportunity to move the amendments. I therefore call upon Babu Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta to move his amendment.

Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: Before I move the amendment, may I be permitted to ask whether you have received a notice of an amendment to be moved by my friend, Maulvi A K Fazl-ul Haq, to-day with regard to the appointment of a committee of this House to go into this question? If it is allowed, then it may not be necessary to move my amendment, and if you decide not to allow it, or if the House rejects it, then I may be permitted to move this amendment?

The PRESIDENT: I cannot allow you to withdraw it conditionally You have either to withdraw it or go on

Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA moved by way of amendment to each of the motions in regard to the salaries of Ministers moved under section 52 (*1*) of the Government of India Act "that the question of the salaries of the Ministers be adjourned for consideration till after the presentation of the annual Budget"

I beg to move the amendment to the motions which stand in the names of several members of this Council My amendment is that the question of the salaries of the Ministers be adjourned for consideration till after the presentation of the annual Budget My position is that the discussion of this question in this Council should be free from all personal or party feelings The question should be looked at very dispassionately and so, Sir, in proposing this amendment, I beg to point out that there is no necessity for any indecent haste in discussing this question We should like to know where and how we stand financially That is the most important thing, because the reduction of salary that has been proposed is from the point of view of retrenchment and, Sir, before we apply the pruning knife it is eminently desirable to know how we stand financially

With regard to some other resolutions which were discussed in this House, the Hon'ble Mr Kerr on behalf of Government asked us to wait till the presentation of the Budget, which would be a reasoned statement of the Bengal position, including the borrowing power So, Sir, my position is this, that for us it is absolutely necessary to know what is our revenue and what is our expenditure and how we stand financially. If we look at the question from other points of view, there is no doubt that our Ministers should receive the same salary as the Executive Councillors and should have the same status, but these resolutions have been moved on the ground that we are working at a deficit which tells heavily upon the people of this country Now, my position is this, that with regard to that matter, we should have facts and figures before us before we can decide finally what ought to be done There are some other considerations which should guide us. From a legal point of view, if we look to section 52 (*1*) of the Government of India Act, it will strike you that under the Act if we fix a salary to-day off-hand, without taking into consideration all the aspects of the question,

we do it for good—at least for 10 years. That is my view of the legal position—I may be wrong—I am subject to correction—but with your permission I will read the section:—

The Governor of a Governor's province may, by notification, appoint Ministers, not being Members of his Executive Council or other officials, to administer transferred subjects, and any Ministers so appointed shall hold office during his pleasure.

There may be paid to any Ministers so appointed in any province the same salary as is payable to a Member of the Executive Council in that province unless a smaller salary is provided by vote of the Legislative Council of the province

If we decide that question by our vote to-day, I think we finish our powers and the question will never be open to us for consideration Another thing is this. I may also refer conveniently to another section of the Act, that is, section 72, with regard to the presentation of the Budget. There it is said under clause (2) that "the estimated annual expenditure and revenue of the province shall be laid in the form of a statement before the Council in each year, and the proposals of the local Government for the appropriation of provincial revenues and other moneys in any year shall be submitted to the vote of the Council in the form of demands for grants. The Council may assent, or refuse its assent, to a demand, or may reduce the amount therein referred to either by a reduction of the whole grant or by the omission or reduction of any of the items of expenditure of which the grant is composed." So my position is this, that under this section we have every right or privilege of refusing any grant which may be demanded from the Executive Government with regard to the pay of the Ministers. The question would be open to us. After we have gone into the financial statement, if our position is so miserable, if we are so circumstanced that we cannot pay Rs 61,000 a year for our Ministers, we may give a less amount and the Ministers themselves may come forward to accept a less amount So my position with regard to the question is this, that there would be no harm in waiting till we have before us a reasoned statement, as promised by Mr. Kerr, and know the extent of our revenue and expenditure and also our borrowing capacity. That is a most important thing. Without having facts and figures before us we shall not be able to argue. Some speakers, particularly my friend Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, said that we should not sacrifice efficiency to an idea of false economy. So I think the whole House will agree with me that there is some harm in this debate and I think we should not be in an indecent hurry to divide the House on this question, and I am confident that my colleagues in this House, who are all experienced men—men connected with the management of public affairs,—know it full well that in order to fix the salaries of the officers it is necessary to know our present financial condition. That is to say, we must go into the facts and figures, master them, study them, and before considering all this it is simply a waste of time to decide about the question,

and it is a question of prudence too, and that is what I plead for, and that is why I move my amendment. I hope that the question will be postponed till the presentation of the Budget to this House.

The PRESIDENT: Before I call upon Mr Dhirendra Chandra Ghose to move his amendment I will explain what procedure I am going to adopt to-day. There are several amendments regarding the salary of Ministers. There are amendments to the effect that the consideration of the matter be postponed for the present and that a committee be appointed, and so forth. What I propose to do is to call upon movers of amendments to move and then to have a general discussion on the original motion moved by Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, and on the amendments If any one of the amendments be carried, it would not be necessary to take up other amendments.

Mr. D. C. CHOSE: I beg to withdraw the amendment standing in my name.

The amendment was then, by leave of the President, withdrawn

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: May I inquire whether, if I were to submit to you a point of order, you will allow me to explain my point?

The PRESIDENT: What is your point?

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: My point is that section 52 (*1*) does not give this Council a distinct statutory right Section 72 (*d*) says——

The PRESIDENT: I cannot follow your arguments. What is the point of order?

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: My point is that we cannot take up the consideration of this question here. It is *ultra vires*.

The PRESIDENT: I rule that the question is not *ultra vires*

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA moved by way of amendment to each of the motions in regard to the salaries of Ministers moved under section 52 (*1*) of the Government of India Act " that the salaries of the Ministers be reduced to such an amount as may be decided by this Council after considering the recommendation of a committee consisting of the following members:—

Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur,
Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri,
Dr. A. Suhrawardy,
Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur,
Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri,
Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M Afzal,
Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur,

Mr D. J. Cohen,
Babu Annada Charan Dutta,
Babu Nirode Behary Mullick, and
the Mover."

My proposal consists practically of two points: first, that there should be a reduction in the salaries of the Ministers, and secondly, that a committee should be appointed to recommend to this Council what the exact amount of reduction should be. The question of reduction is already before the House and several figures have been proposed or some of them are going to be proposed; there would have been no necessity of bringing in my amendment, if different rates of salaries had not been suggested. It seems to me that it would be almost inconvenient and futile to ask the House to vote on so many different rates, and hence I beg to suggest that a committee of 11 members might consider these and other rates in all their bearings and recommend a definite amount for the consideration of this House.

As for the reasons why there should be a reduction at all, much has been said on the subject by my friend, Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, and he has given a lot of figures—comparative figures—and I do not like to go into this question again. I should, however, like, with your permission, Sir, just to mention a few broad aspects of the case.

First of all, I must make my position clear about one thing. I have heard it said by many members of this Council outside that a vote for reduction of salaries implies a want of confidence in the Ministers. I can assure you, Sir, that my proposal has no such object in view and is not at all a personal question. My resolution does not aim against the three hon'ble gentlemen, who are now in charge of Ministers' portfolios. It is a question of principle; that principle is to protest against the high cost of administration, especially in the salaries of the higher Government officials, and at the same time to give our Ministers an opportunity of showing an example of economy. This Council, Sir, as far as lies in its power, is, I believe, the trustee of the tax-payer's money, and its first duty is to see that in the cost of administration, a maximum limit is placed on the salary of the highest officials, so that the salaries of the other officials of the province may in time be adjusted accordingly. The Ministers and Executive Councillors are our highest officials. They perform the most responsible work of the Government, and it is in their salaries that the standard should be fixed. If this Council had it in its power, I should certainly have included the salaries of the Executive Councillors in my proposal; but unfortunately, the Council has no such power now, and the only way to protest against the high cost of administration is to see that the Ministers, who are said to be our own men, may show an example of economy—an example, which will be better than a thousand precepts and which will

bring sufficient moral pressure, in time, to bear upon the authorities to reduce the salaries of all other highly paid Government officials. I submit that a beginning must be made somewhere, and where can we make a better beginning than with our own representatives?

A comparison between the salaries paid to Government officials in India and consequently in Bengal and those paid in other countries has already been made. I should only like to point out the great disparity that exists here between the salaries of the highest and the lowest officials. Let me compare the salaries paid to Ministers with those paid to the lowest schoolmaster in Bengal, America and Japan. I take the case of the schoolmaster because he is the lowest paid of all the educated Government officials, and hence I am taking this standard. In America, the Cabinet Minister gets 16 times that of the lowest schoolmaster, in Japan about 15 times and in Bengal more than 130 times. Why is this tremendous disparity? By reducing the pay of the Ministers, this Council will not only reduce this great disparity, but set the highest standard of salary in this country, according to which the salary of all the lower officials will be adjusted. This is a great responsibility, and I earnestly appeal to this Council to say that this standard must be fixed at a moderate figure now, once for all.

I have heard it argued that the reduction in the salary of the Minister, without a similar reduction in that of the Executive Councillor, will suggest an unhealthy difference of salary between Indian and European officers, and should, on no account, be tolerated. The case of the Indian and European Judges of the High Court has been cited as an example——

The PRESIDENT: Europeans and Indians have nothing to do with the discussion. Your motion is that the matter be referred to a committee.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I have also heard it said that a reduction in salary will mean a reduction in status and position. I confess, Sir, that I do not understand this. Status in whose eyes? In the eyes of the Government, the status must remain the same, because the Government has already recognised the status of the Minister as equal to that of the Executive Councillor. As for status in the eyes of the public, I can assure the Ministers that if they take a smaller salary and thus effect a saving in the tax-payer's money, by whatever small an amount it be, their status, instead of diminishing, will be raised a hundredfold. The public will appreciate their noble example, and will bring such pressure to bear that, in time, the high salaries of the other officials will have to be reduced also. If money is to be the criterion of one's status, the sooner we do away with such a pernicious standard, the better for the country. Then again, I have heard it stated that it would not be possible to get first class men on any less amount. I am mortified to hear such a statement, and cannot believe

that patriotism in Bengal has fallen to such a low ebb. If good men can be had in all other countries, it is surprising that in poor Bengal we should have to tempt Ministers with such large salaries.

I beg to make an appeal to the Ministers. This Council has been assembled to work out the Reforms Scheme and give it a fair trial; it is desirable that there should be no discord at the very outset to jeopardise its success. The opinion of the country is well-nigh unanimous that there should be a reduction, not only as a protest against the high cost of administration, but, as I have said before, to set the maximum limit of the highest salary in the province.

A suggestion has been made to postpone the question and take it up when the Budget comes. But, Sir, the two things are quite different. Under section 52 (*l*) the Council has to fix the standard of salary, and the salaries of the Ministers, whereas in the Budget, we may vote a reduction for a particular year. Even if we take action under section 52 (*l*) we are not debarred to take action under section 72 (*d*).

The PRESIDENT: You need not discuss that, I have already given my ruling on the point.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Before I sit down I have just one word to say. Yesterday the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter said that the report of the Joint Committee is binding on this Council. In that report it is stated: "They advise that the status of the Minister should be similar to that of the Members of the Executive Council, but that their salaries should be fixed by the Legislative Council." I appeal to the Members of this Council not to shirk this great responsibility, but to take up this matter at once and appoint the committee that I have mentioned to look and decide what exact figure ought to be the salary of the Ministers.

Adjournment.

The Council stood adjourned till Friday, the 11th February, 1921, at 3 P.M.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council assembled at 3 P.M. on the 11th February, 1921, in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers and 112 nominated and elected members.

Affirmation of Allegiance.

Rai Upendra Lal Ray Bahadur made an affirmation of his allegiance to the Crown.

Coal Transportation.

Rai ABINASH CHANDRA BANERJEE Bahadur: I wish to ask the Hon'ble Member in charge of Commerce whether it is a fact that from the 29th January, 1921, to the 9th February, 1921, so many as 2,080 wagons were supplied for public coal for downward destinations and that the jute mills or any other consumer was at liberty to purchase this coal to stop the mills from being closed.

MEMBER in charge of the DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr: The control of coal transportation is regulated by the Government of India, and the Government of Bengal have no information on the subject-matter of the question.

Motions in regard to section 52 (1) of the Government of India Act.

Salaries of Ministers.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: Under Rule 77 of the Bengal Legislative Council Manual Rules, I pray for leave to move an amendment to the resolutions on the question of salaries of Ministers. I have given a copy of this amendment to the Secretary to the Legislative Council, and, I understand, copies have already been circulated to members. I pray for leave to move this amendment.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): As notice of the amendment has not been given seven days before, I shall have to consider whether permission should be given or not. If no one in this Council objects to your amendment being moved, you can move it. I believe there is no objection.

The PRESIDENT: Permission is given to the member to move his amendment.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ moved "that the question of the reduction of the salaries of Ministers be referred to a committee of nine members to be elected by the Council, for report to the Council, the election to be conducted on the basis of the single transferable vote and in the manner indicated at page 201 of the Council Manual."

Last night Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta also moved an amendment that the consideration of this question be referred to a committee, and I therefore crave the indulgence of this House to say a few words as to why I am also putting forward a suggestion of a somewhat similar character. We have to remember in the first place that this question involves two definite matters to be considered. First, whether the salaries should be reduced at all, and secondly, if there is to be any reduction, what ought to be the amount of the reduced salary. Now, Sir, a reference to the wording of the resolution moved by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta will show that, so far as one of these questions is concerned, the resolution takes it for granted that there must be a reduction, and the only point for consideration ought to be the amount of the reduced salary. I do not wish to take up the time of the Council by discussing whether the salaries should be reduced or not, but in my humble opinion I think it is much better that all aspects of the question should be threshed out before a smaller committee than at a meeting of the whole House, and that after we have considered the arguments for and against, we may come to a decision on both these questions. Secondly, it will be seen on a reference to the resolution itself that the proposer has suggested 12 names as members of the committee. I do not object to 12 members, although I think a smaller committee can work more efficiently than a bigger one, but my principal objection to the form of the resolution lies in this, that the mover has taken upon himself the task of selecting the members who are to form the committee. In my humble judgment, it is much better that the entire House should consider the question and select the personnel of the committee. If the whole House comes to vote and selects the members, it can be claimed that the committee is really representative of the entire House, but if the members are selected by one individual, it may be said that the committee may be representative of the opinions held by that particular member but not necessarily representative of the opinions entertained by the whole House. It is for this reason that I suggest that, irrespective of any considerations, let the whole House record their votes and select the personnel of the committee.

Sir, in the form in which I have put forward my suggestion, I do not think it is necessary that I should go into the merits of the question at all. If I do so it would be pre-judging the issues. I would rather like, if my suggestion is accepted, to leave the consideration of

these two questions to the members of the committee themselves. When they assemble they will be able to take into consideration all facts and circumstances, they will be able to decide after taking into account the volume of public opinion in this matter as also the financial position and various other matters, whether the salaries of the Ministers should be reduced or not. Once they come to the conclusion that there ought to be a reduction, they will be in a better position, by bringing a calm and cool judgment to bear upon the subject, to determine what the amount of the reduced salary will be. Members will also be pleased to see that in my resolution I have recommended that after the committee has considered this question, a report is to be submitted to this Council, and that report will be before the members of the House and the members will be quite at liberty to accept the report of the committee or to reject it. Of course a recommendation made by the committee will necessarily carry a good deal of weight with this House. The committee will take upon itself the labour and anxious deliberation that is necessary to come to a sound conclusion on such an important subject.

Lastly, I wish to say a word or two as regards the method of election I have mentioned that the method of election should be as indicated at page 204 of the Council Manual Briefly stated, the method is this:—that the Secretary will intimate to the members a certain date within which members who are willing to serve on the committee are to send out their names These names will be printed and circulated to all the members, a date will be fixed, and on that day members will assemble and record their votes for nine members: those for whom the largest number of votes would be recorded would be elected members of the committee The process may seem to be somewhat cumbrous, but at the same time it has the merit of being able to record an impartial vote.

Sir, for all these reasons I commend this amendment to acceptance by this House, and I hope that this suggestion will be accepted and we will all be able to arrive at a definite and satisfactory conclusion with regard to this very important matter—satisfactory not merely to the Ministers but also to ourselves and to the larger public outside, to whose opinion we should always defer in all our deliberations in this Council.

The PRESIDENT: On reconsideration, I think that all the amendments standing in the names of the different members should be moved one after the other. I would therefore now ask Shah Syed Emdadul Haq to move the amendment that stands in his name.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved in Bengali by way of amendment to the motion by Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur in regard to the salaries of Ministers "that for the words and figures

'the amount of the salary of the Under-Secretary of State for India, *i.e.*, at £1,500 a year' the following be substituted, namely:—'Rs. 1,000 a month.'"

[He delivered his speech in Bengali in support of his amendment.]

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA moved "that the salary of any of the Ministers do not exceed Rs. 2,500 per month."

We have heard many times here the word "reduction" being used in connection with this question before the House. To my mind that is a misnomer. If we read section 52 of the Government of India Act, it is clear that this House has got to fix the pay of the Indian Ministers. We know the history of how that section came to be enacted, and the apologetic word "may" in the section clearly shows that primarily it is the duty of this House to fix the salary of the Indian Ministers, and unless that is done, then the Ministers are to be paid the maximum pay. It was never intended to be ever read in the sense that the maximum pay should be paid to the Ministers at the outset. Therefore I take it that the intention of the Legislature is that we should fix the salary, and before we have done it, how the question of reduction of salary arises, I for myself fail to see. It is a duty of ours, and we should not shirk the responsibility for any reason whatsoever. It will be seen from the wording of the resolutions of the first mover, the second mover and those who come after me that it is only in regard to the figure that we differ. On principle we do not.

Sir, the underlying principle of my resolution is a sound financial policy, a policy which should govern our administration, especially the popular half, over which it is stated that we have got control and we are therefore responsible for the administration of that half, and it is also stated that our leaders, the Ministers, are responsible to the Legislature and to the people in general ultimately because their salary has to be voted by this Council. If there is any meaning in these propositions, certainly it is our duty to fix the salary exactly as it will be in accord with our financial position. Last evening a mover of one of the amendments stated to you that we do not know as yet what our actual financial position is, and before the reasoned statement, which the Hon'ble Member in charge of Finance has promised to present before us on the 21st of this month, it is not possible for us to have the requisite data to proceed with the question now before the House. I was a little surprised at that. Well, any experienced and clever hand may manipulate statistics and figures in any way, and I believe the Hon'ble Member in charge of Finance will try to present it in the best possible light honestly and as becomes his high position, consistent with what he thinks would be beneficial to the people in general, but all the same a fact cannot be absolutely ignored, absolutely nullified by any array of figures. The official statistics do not really in the least concern us when we are trying ourselves for the solution of the

problem before us. What really concerns us is the pay which we are going to allow to our Ministers. I look upon the Ministers as one of us and as our leaders, who have gone from us and who will have to return to us. I therefore lay special emphasis on the point that we are to fix the salaries of our own Ministers, of our own people, and therefore we ought to apply a businesslike standard. I am glad to see that the importance of the business people here is so much valued that we have changed practically the time of the sitting of this Council, and let us follow the procedure which is adopted in the management of their own affairs. Do they really pay so much to their Managers as their business cannot afford to pay? Why should we pay a pice more than we can afford to pay, or more than what is sufficient, to Ministers with a sufficient amount of ability and practical knowledge of the departments which they have to manage? Therefore the only thing to be seen is what is the state of our resources, and without waiting for the special figures which we expect to get from the Hon'ble the Finance Member, we now come to the fountain-head, from which all the money of the State really comes. Is it not the people at the outset from whom money will have to be collected? And what is the condition of our people? Those whose lives are spent in towns—or who only go into the interior on a holiday or occasional visits—are not likely to realise the amount of poverty of our people. The townspeople, who generally live in towns, have not the direct knowledge and they come away with only superficial impressions rendered still more superficial by the natural anxiety of our people to conceal their misery from guests and visitors. It is no longer distress or extreme distress which now and then ripples upon the surface—but it is now an appalling, destructive poverty. If I speak of my Division of Chittagong—and conditions elsewhere are no better—50 per cent of the people, of whatever rank and social status they may be, do not know what a proper meal a day is and cannot give proper clothing to their own children. If you go into the interior you will see that the young wives in the houses of so-called *bhadralog* classes have to go long distances, clad in almost rags, in order to fetch a pitcher of water. Can you not find from that at once what is the real misery and what is the appalling and dire poverty that is ruining the whole country? Money comes from that source, and with money coming from that source we cannot indulge in the luxury of entertaining highly paid officers. Therefore, considering the extreme poverty of the people, a pice saved will be a pice going to alleviate the misery of the people. In this silver chamber in comfortable spring chairs under electric fans we may sometimes feel inclined to forget where we have come from, where we shall have to return to, and how our brethren in the country are toiling exposed to the sun and the rain, and how we force them to pay by way of taxes the best and the most they obtain by sweat of their brow and shivering of their nude or ill-clad backs. Therefore, gentlemen, I appeal to you to once realise this dire poverty in your country.

Add to that another factor which you can no longer ignore, and that is the growing civic consciousness of the people in general. It is no longer a handful of a certain section called "intelligentsia" whom you have to count with. For various reasons the great mass have awakened—they are no longer blind or ignorant as before—they have grown fully alive to their condition and are seriously thinking about the causes that have led them to this state of helplessness.

It is very difficult to ignite a wet match stick, but a pile of dry fuel would catch fire at once. I am referring to this allegorically, but people who have ears to hear and eyes to see will know that our people have come to such a desperate plight that they will accept anything which they come across as an offer of a solution of the present difficulty. If this is not a sufficient eye-opener to us, I do not know what will be. We may try to shelve this question, but I tell you, Sir, that the present civic consciousness of the people of Bengal will never spare you. They will never lose a moment in finding out why you are trying to shelve, by an amendment, a quite reasonable proposal and why you are trying to shirk it in this way or that. If you feel justified in thinking that your resources are of an unlimited nature I shall be the last person to ask you not to vote for the full amount of salary to the Ministers permissible under the law. You should not shut your eyes to the actual state of your finances as a frog under a few inches of water does, and, while it thinks that it is safe, it allows itself to be captured by the first bird of prey. I must tell the members of this Council that this sort of thing will never do in the future. That being so, the extreme poverty of the people *plus* their growing civic consciousness should be the fundamental principle which should regulate the settlement of the pay of our Ministers. There should not be any comparison with the pay on the other side of Government. I am not going to attack or defend the high salary that is being given to them. So long as you cannot do without them, you must put up with them. Therefore you cannot help the amount of money you are paying for an imported agency. Time will no doubt come, and time is fast approaching, when we shall have a good opportunity of doing without imported agency for our administration. So far as our popular government is concerned, control over some departments has been given to us. After 10 years we shall stand at the bar of the two Houses of Parliament, and when we shall be asked, "Powers were given to you: what have you done?" what answer will you give then? If you want to retrench expenditure in the name of economy, if you cry yourself hoarse over the poverty of your people, you will be met with one curt reply: "Well, your own people were called upon to discharge some responsible functions and they have been paid the same amount of money as the Executive Councillors: then why should you grudge the appointment of men on the same pay from overseas?" The maximum salary of an Executive Councillor should not therefore be the standard of the pay of Ministers.

I would rather put to the Council a reverse proposition. I mean that the Ministers, who are undoubtedly our leaders and who have got to be appointed from amongst us, should not forget that they are of us. They should certainly remember that they are Suruchi's sons and not Sumiti's and gladly give away the sweets that have been put into the former's hands by their father and must not look at them with longing eyes; and thus show an example of self-sacrifice. When an opportunity occurs I hope and trust that the kingdom of heaven will certainly be open to them. I do not know why in this country, where the lesson of plain living and high thinking has come down from posterity and where even now in these days of irreverence the tallest and the proudest man does obeisance to the poor Maulvis and Hindu savants, we should consider high pay as the only criterion of status and position; certainly we should not. Are the status and pay so bound up together that we cannot do without either and that they are in their practical aspects identical? It is a pity that such a proposition has got to be refuted. I do not wish to labour it further. I shall only refer to a statement made by one of our present Ministers in the Indian National Congress. As President of the Poona Congress in 1891 he said that the high salary paid to the high officials was really a financial problem and was intimately connected with the misery of the people. I do not know why after about 30 years he now changes the whole principle of economy enunciated by himself. Now that the angle of vision (a phrase of which everybody seems to be fond) has changed, are we to take exactly the converse of the proposition laid down by the President of the Poona Congress in 1891? I believe I have been able to convince the House that we, as protectors of the interests of our constituencies, to whom we are responsible for our actions, must join hands and try to find out the amount we can conscientiously afford to pay to our representatives on the Ministerial bench. Personal questions and personal equation do not count in this matter at all. You must remember that the old order will change, yielding place to new, and that one day some of you may occupy one of the seats on the Ministerial bench now occupied by our present Ministers. It is no doubt incumbent on us to see that a decent salary compatible with our resources and their position as Ministers is voted for. Sir, I believe I have been able to make out a strong case for giving the Ministers a salary consistently with our means. The figure I have proposed is Rs. 2,500 a month. I beg to inquire, Sir, in view of the ruling you were pleased to give me last evening, whether I should confine myself to this particular figure or not. I understood you to say that the proposal of Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur as it comes first in order will be first put and the other proposition as regards the amount of pay to be given to the Ministers should be taken up after the amendments are put and lost.

The PRESIDENT: You may mention your figure of Rs. 2,500. You are entitled to say that this a proper sum.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: Having laid down the policy which should really guide us in coming to a conclusion on the question of the salary, I feel I am justified in suggesting the figure I have mentioned. I mean the growing poverty of the people and their civic consciousness of their rights and privileges should be taken into consideration. As the Ministers will not have to discharge a more responsible and arduous task than that of a District and Sessions Judge who does both civil, criminal and a certain amount of administrative work (not forgetting his attendance at the court from 11 to 5), we should not fix a higher standard of pay for them. These Ministers will be assisted in their work by a large body of Secretaries, Under-Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries, and their duties will certainly not be as onerous as that of a District and Sessions Judge. The sum mentioned by me is intermediate between the one suggested by Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur and Maulvi Hamid-ud-din Khan, but I will not grudge if Rs. 3,000 be given to our Ministers and shall accept any lower figure also. The Ministers are the representatives of the people, and it will be graceful of them if they declare to the House the lowest amount that will satisfy them.

One other argument which has not been referred to here is that our Budget estimate runs up to a very high figure of 8 or 9 crores and the total cost of the Ministers' salary would be like a drop in the ocean Against this argument I need only say that the money which you realise from the poor people is really the money earned with the sweat of their brow, and you must try to lessen the misery of even a single man by foregoing a little of your emoluments.

The PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: Thank you, Sir. I have finished.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: I propose an amendment to the motion of Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: I rise to a point of order. If I am not mistaken, you called upon Maulvi Hamid-ud-din to move his amendment.

The PRESIDENT: Yes, I called on Maulvi Hamid-ud-din to move his amendment.

Maulvi HAMID-UD-DIN KHAN: In moving this resolution I am of opinion that this is the most important matter which demands the serious attention of all concerned in the economic aspect of the country. The basis of all government, of all institutions, is money, and a proper and equitable distribution of that money. It is needless for me to say that without funds the machinery of government will come to a standstill, but at the same time it must be admitted that without a proper and reasonable distribution of that fund the object of good

government would be frustrated. Now our beloved Emperor has graciously given us the rights and privileges of participating in the government of the country in certain matters. I think we should try heart and soul to make the best use of the powers that have been bestowed upon us. The financial capacity of a country should be considered in discussing the merits and demerits of the resolution I have just moved. It is admitted on all hands that India is a poor country and that its people are so very poor that they cannot manage to meet even the bare necessities of life. Thousands of them are without food, without cloth and without home. It is due to the dire penury of the people that their efficiency has gradually diminished. The efficiency of a country is to be determined by the power of its people in health, wealth and brain. Without wealth neither health nor brain capacity can develop. It is known to you, gentlemen, that thousands of our countrymen are suffering from malaria and other similar diseases, and that those diseases are not only carrying away thousands of people but are also diminishing the vital powers of those who are living. Now I hope, Sir, it is clear that owing to the poverty of our people the efficiency of our countrymen is dwindling day by day. That being so, how can we expect the material prosperity of India? It is upon the efficiency of our people that the moral and material progress of the country largely depends. Now I think that our primary and only duty should be to raise the standard of efficiency of the people of India. With a view to that end the condition of agriculture, sanitation and education should be thoroughly considered, and all possible good schemes should be framed for the improvement of these departments. Unless and until these three departments are improved, all our talk and all our discussions for the moral and material prosperity of India will go for nothing. Now, Sir, in order to improve these three departments, large funds are required. The greater portion of the money goes to meet the expenses of reserved subjects, and what remains for the transferred subjects—specially agriculture, sanitation and education—is so very small, or rather insignificant, that it cannot even cover the primary expenses of these departments, not to speak of securing efficiency. Bengal has a population of about 4½ crores of people. Now, in order to secure the efficiency of these people a large sum is required. I hope and trust that every man with patriotism in him should try his level best to secure the efficiency of these people, for it is upon that and that only that the moral and material progress of Bengal entirely depends.

Sir, for the purpose of securing the necessary funds you should either reduce the establishment costs or propose fresh taxes. The latter is impossible, for the people are so very poor that they have no money to pay. Fresh taxation will not only mean hardship but also starvation to many. I am therefore not in favour of taxation. The only alternative that is left to us now is to reduce the salary of the officials. Now, the first reduction should be made in the salary of the Ministers. The

three Ministers will draw Rs. 64,000x3, i. e., Rs. 1,92,000 a year; if the salary of each Minister is cut down to Rs. 3,000 per month, then we shall have a saving of Rs. 84,000 a year. The amount so available may be spent for the improvement of the three departments I have already mentioned.

In my resolution I have only asked for the reduction of the salary of the Ministers, for in my humble opinion they are the first and foremost men who should make a little sacrifice for the good of the country. Without sacrifice no nation can prosper. The disinterested service of one's own country should be the motto of the Ministers. Of course I do not say that they should work without any remuneration. Let them draw salary, but not so much as has been prescribed. In Japan the Prime Minister draws a salary of Rs. 21,000 a year without any allowance. The Cabinet Member of Japan gets a salary of Rs. 12,000 a year; the Cabinet Minister of the United States gets a salary of Rs. 36,000 a year. In Great Britain itself the Under-Secretary of State for India gets £1,500 a year. Such being the state of things in countries which are far richer and more advanced than India, is it proper and equitable that a Provincial Minister should get such a high salary at the cost of their own poor countrymen? I think it will be quite sufficient to maintain the dignity of the Ministers' position if their salary is reduced to Rs. 3,000 a month. Mr Naravan Rao Kelkar, a Minister of the Central Provinces, has shown a noble example by expressing his desire to take only what is needed for his pocket expenses. It is by such noble sacrifice, it is by such patriotism, that we can render real service to our country.

I do not like to detain you long, as there may be other members to speak on many other matters. Before I take my seat I again say with all the earnestness that I can command that, if we really desire to render service to our country, we should try one and all to make sacrifices for the improvement of our country, and I hope and trust that the resolution which I have just moved will be carried unanimously.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED moved, by way of amendments to motions Nos. 6, 8 and 10, "that the salary of a Minister be fixed at Rs. 3,000 per month."

When we came here to this Council in the beginning we came with a mandate from the country, that is, that a reduction should be made, and with that mandate, with that sense of the country we came here and very one of us was fired by that consideration. The pruning knife was applied to the European high officials. From four the vote of the House has reduced it to two. Then, again, the Darjeeling exodus was taken into consideration and again the pruning knife was applied unmercifully. Then came the consideration of the Ministers, and I submit to the House that of two of the movers of amendments, one

member said that, with the growing family, the father has to comport himself with economy in everything. That same gentleman has come to-day hurriedly, without even giving a sufficient notice to move that a committee be appointed of nine members. Then, again, another gentleman who waxed eloquent on the subject of the Darjeeling exodus has come with the suggestion that the matter be postponed. I submit that that amendment again is without sufficient notice. Therefore, I say that the sense of the House in the beginning was for retrenchment (for cutting down expenses) wherever possible, but now, under the electric fans,—they are not moving to-day,—under the bewitching electric lights, that fire has cooled down, that sense of economy is gone. Now other considerations, persuasions and other things come into vogue, and now we are considering whether the Ministers should be two or three; and we have come to the decision of making the number three. Then, again, to-day, when the pay of the Ministers is under consideration, that pruning knife is not again applied, but it is going to be postponed. I submit and hope that the House would consider very carefully that, when under the law we are given power and when we are going to exercise that power for the first time with regard to our own men, we should not stop short. We should not make an invidious distinction after what has gone down before. We belie the sentiments which we entertained at the beginning when we say that it should be postponed. Therefore, Sir, I object seriously to the postponement of this subject, and I hope that the House would consider it and my amendment to the resolutions which have gone before, accepting Maulvi Hamid-ud-din Khan's, that the Ministers' pay should be fixed at Rs. 3,000. I submit that in a city like Calcutta, where it is very expensive living, Rs. 1,000, Rs. 1,200 or Rs. 2,000 would not do to maintain our Ministers in proper dignity. I, therefore, say that you would bear with me that Rs. 3,000 per month would be a fair sum for the pay of the Ministers. I would submit that the peasantry of this country live from hand to mouth with one meal a day from year's end to year's end and the money of such people should be spent with great consideration. It is a trust which the House ought to discharge to the best of its ability and, therefore, I say that such a pay as should maintain the dignity of the Ministers should be granted; and I think Rs. 3,000 is a very respectable sum. I have very great respect for our Ministers, who are the ornaments of our society. I am not moved by any consideration to curtail or to lower their dignity when I propose this salary. It is under a sense of responsibility for the money which is wrung from the poor raiyats of Bengal. It is for their good whatever retrenchment we can make and we shall endeavour our best to do it. I therefore move that Rs. 3,000 should be fixed as the pay of each of the Ministers.

Babu NIRODE BEHARY MULLICK was to have moved "that the salary of a Minister be fixed at Rs. 3,500 per mensem."

At the very outset I would point out that I am desirous of withdrawing this motion. But before I take leave of the House to withdraw it, I would like to remind the House of a certain point contained in the preamble of the Government of India Act of 1919:—

And whereas the action of Parliament in such matters must be guided by the co-operation received from those on whom new opportunities of service will be conferred, and by the extent to which it is found that confidence can be reposed in their sense of responsibility.

To me this sense of responsibility or patriotism is more important than the financial side of the question. The question is: Are we to prove less responsible and less patriotic than the representatives of the United Provinces? With these words I propose to withdraw my motion

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): It is perhaps desirable that at this stage I should remind the Council of the position under the Government of India Act, and communicate to them briefly the reasons by which His Excellency was actuated in fixing the salary of the Ministers. As has been said before in connection with this resolution, it is within the power of the Governor under section 52 of the Government of India Act to appoint Ministers on a pay not exceeding that of the Executive Councillors, and in accordance with that power the Governor, on the introduction of the Reforms in Bengal, appointed Ministers, and being impressed by arguments which I shall adduce later, directed that they should receive the same pay as the Members of the Executive Council. His action was, however, subject to the statutory power given to the Council of voting a lower salary. It will perhaps be useful here if I mention to the Council that we are advised by our legal advisers that once this power under section 52 of reducing the salary of Ministers is exercised, it could not again be revived in connection with that particular section. I mention that, because it seems to me to emphasize the desirability of the Council, when discussing this question, keeping the larger issues in mind as to what position and status the Council wishes that its Ministers should occupy in this Reforms Scheme, what standard of work does it wish its Ministers to perform, and what pecuniary emoluments are men of the requisite type deserving of.

Well, Sir, it would be observed that the various motions that have been put down in connection with this resolution fall into two main categories. There are those which urge that we should defer taking action, and there are those which are anxious to take action in various modified forms. It will be simplest to deal with the former first. If we are to postpone action till a later day, pending inquiry by a committee, it will only mean that we shall have a duplication of the arguments on the merits of the question on the receipt of the report of the committee. The three motions for adjournment of the question do not, to my mind, make out a case for postponing the subject

which is not in itself one that raises a complicated issue. Babu Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta yesterday with a great deal of reasonableness put the point that we should wait till we know our financial position. To that I would answer that the question is based on larger issues than a matter of a thousand rupees one way or the other according as the figures may work out in the Budget That is to say, these Ministers are an integral part of the Reforms, and it is up to the province to pay them whatever emoluments are required to enable them to prove themselves worthy. The other two amendments are somewhat similar in character, and it might be said that they seek to ensure a discussion of the question in a more informal manner and in a calmer atmosphere than, it might be feared, may characterise the turn of the debate here, though I hope it will not. Of these two motions I should certainly prefer that of Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq; that of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta seems to me to be open to two objections. It wants to refer the question to a committee and at the same time directs the committee to reduce the salaries of the Ministers. If there is to be a committee, then it should surely be given a free hand. Secondly, he mentions the names of the gentlemen who would constitute the committee. In this respect, Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq's motion is eminently one which the Council would do well to follow. It is clear that we cannot discuss individual names in open Council. The proper thing is to form a committee on the basis of the principle of a single transferable vote. But although as between the two motions I would prefer that of Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq, yet I would deprecate its adoption by the Council since it seems to me that the issue must finally be decided by our vote here, and it is not of a character which requires to be threshed out in a committee. I would therefore urge that a decision be come to on the present occasion.

I would now pass on to the merits of the proposal itself. The main argument which appeals to me in this connection is that it is clearly indicated in the report of the Joint Committee, and is still more clearly indicated in the evidence that was given before the Joint Committee, that the Members and Ministers are equal parts of one Government. They are appointed to discharge similar functions and they are entrusted with departments of much the same importance. No one can say that the departments of Ministers are less important than those in charge of Executive Members. Many people would argue that they are of more importance. After reading the evidence before the Joint Committee, I submit it is clear that the point of equality of status was pressed forcibly by the vast majority of witnesses, and I can well imagine what would have been the retort, supposing that the Joint Committee and the House of Commons had directed that the Ministers should receive a smaller salary. What would have been the line of argument? It would have been said—"Here is this Government trying to insult our men as persons of smaller status; they may stand on the threshold of the door, but must not enter the chamber on terms of equality." If I

was in opposition to the Government and the Government had done this, I could make quite a good speech on these lines myself. I am perfectly certain that there are many gentlemen who spend so much of their time in imputing motives to Government who could make a far better one. Therefore I submit that in giving the Ministers the salary and status of the Executive Members we are merely carrying out what was the expressed wish of the vast majority of those who represented before the House of Commons and the Joint Committee the importance of this question.

Again, apart from that, another relevant point is whether the salary is adequate under modern conditions. In connection therewith, it is relevant to remember that the pay given to Members is not excessive. How many times have we been told that the economic position is so changed that the pay that was sufficient ten years ago is no longer so now. Yet the pay that is now given to Members is the same as was fixed 50 or 60 years ago. I do not wish to introduce personal matters, but for my part I was far better off in the earlier stages of my service than now as a Member of Council. Then, Sir, from what profession is it most likely that Ministers in future will be drawn? Clearly the legal profession. Now, the pay of a High Court Judge is Rs. 4,000 a month and after 11½ years' service he gets a pension of £1,200. Is it not a matter of fairly common knowledge that this pay is not sufficient to attract the leading men from the Bar? Then again, we have men of business. I take it that the successful among them would occupy the posts of Ministers, but a remuneration of Rs. 5,000 a month would not be considered a very tempting offer nowadays for a man who is in the forefront of business. Other suggestions have been made which would make the pay of the Ministers less than that of the Indian Civil Service officers whom the Ministers are expected to control. On no grounds can such proposals be justified.

Those are the general arguments and there remain the details of the amendments, which fortunately do not require any lengthy notice, since the one outstanding feature of the debate has been that few of the movers of the amendments have been at much pains to explain their individual proposals. We have heard many generalities, of more or less relevancy, but few have tried to justify their proposals on any specific grounds. There are only two exceptions—Babu Annada Charan Dutta and Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur. The latter sought an analogy with the Under-Secretary of State for India, incidentally proposing that the Ministers should be paid in pounds, though presumably forgetting the vagaries of the exchange. But the analogy is a false one, as there is nothing in common between Under-Secretaries of State in England and the Ministers here. The services of a member of Parliament are recognised first by giving him an unpaid Secretaryship to a Cabinet Minister, and then, if he is successful, he

may be given an Under-Secretaryship, and then one of the minor Ministries, and finally if he reaches the top of the ladder he might become Prime Minister. But the Under-Secretaryship is only a lower rung in the ladder while a Ministership is the highest rung which is only open to few. The analogy therefore is a false one. The only other member who has given us a detailed reason is Babu Annada Charan Dutta, and he has cited the case of the District and Sessions Judge, apparently mainly on the ground that both the Judge and the Minister have to do a full day's work. So do the Agent of a railway and a station master, but no one would contend that they should be paid alike.

Therefore, Sir, both on general grounds and on particular grounds, I put it to the Council that the rate of pay of Ministers should be equal to that of the Members of the Executive Council, and this can be justified both in recognition of the work which will devolve upon Ministers and in recognition of the quality of the Ministers who will be drawn from the best men in the country.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I confess I have seldom been more impressed with a sense of responsibility than I am now in addressing the Council on the question of the Ministers' salary. I quite realise that the financial position in Bengal is such that it causes a natural desire in our minds to effect retrenchment in every direction, and I realise also that there is amongst my countrymen a deep-seated conviction that the high officials in this country get excessive pay. I assume therefore that hon'ble members, who have given notices of motions for reduction of Ministers' salary, have done so, because they are anxious to secure recognition of the principle that in a poor country like ours the high officials should not receive salaries which may be considered excessive. But, Sir, I venture to think that the subject requires closer examination, and I am sure the House would like to consider, and consider very carefully, the arguments both for and against the reduction of Ministers' salary before coming to a decision in this important matter. Now, I would like to remind the Council that after the publication of the Reform Scheme there was, amidst a good deal of divergence of opinion with regard to its merits, a unanimity of view upon one point, viz., that the salary of a Minister should be the same as that of a Member of the Executive Council. And I would also like to remind the Council that before the Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament on the Government of India Bill representatives of every shade of political opinion in this country while giving evidence were insistent in demanding that there should be no difference between the pay of a Minister and that of a Member of the Executive Council. For instance, I find Mr. V. J. Patel and Dewan V. P. Madhava Rao, two stalwart representatives of the Indian National Congress, saying that "such Ministers should be on

an equality in pay and status with the Members of the Executive Council." I am sure my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Annada Charan Dutta will not go as far as to say that the Congress, whose mandate, these gentlemen were carrying out, were unmindful either of the great poverty or the civic consciousness of the people of this country of which he has spoken so much. Also I find that Mrs. Besant, an ex-president of the Indian National Congress, said in her evidence that "a Minister's salary shall be the same as that of an Executive Councillor of the same province, so as to ensure equality of status." Further I see, Mr. Jinnah and Mr. Yakub Hussain, two representatives of that great organisation, the Moslem League, said that "the salary of the Minsters should be the same as that of the Members of the Executive Council of the Provinces, not such salary as the Governor may determine." And lastly, we find that Mr. Srinivasa Shastri, and other leaders of what is now known as the Liberal Party were equally insistent in demanding that a Minister should have the same salary as that of a Member of the Executive Council. Sir, in these days of unceasing conflict and clash of opinion and a certain amount of contrariness, one seldom comes across so unique a unanimity of opinion as one finds on the question of the Ministers' salary in the evidence before the Joint Select Committee. This solidarity of opinion, I may remind the Council, was in the latter part of 1919. What has happened since that we are invited, with a certain amount of urgent insistence, to revise and reconsider the unanimous Indian view which was placed before the joint Select Committee? Is it the discovery of a deficit in the financial position of Bengal? That can hardly be so. For we cannot overlook the fact that there is in every province a similar movement for the reduction of the poor Ministers' salary. And where is the financial stringency in the United Provinces, in Madras and other parts of India? And yet we hear the same chorus from everywhere, that unless the Ministers' salary is forthwith reduced, things cannot go on. So I ask again, what has happened since evidence was given before the Joint Select Committee that we should at this very early stage of the Council apply ourselves to the consideration of the question of reducing the Ministers' salary? My friend Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur has said that this question was an issue at the last election. Sir, I was quite alive and alert at the time of the election, being a candidate myself, and I can say with confidence that there was no such specific issue at the last election. The only issue that was raised was as to whether we should take advantage of the Reforms. To be quite accurate, Sir, I should mention that only in one constituency, namely, that represented by my hon'ble friend the Maharaja of Nuddea, Mr. J. N. Roy attempted to raise another issue, whether the raiyat should be made a peasant proprietor. Besides these two, there was no other issue at the last election. But if I am doing an injustice to my hon'ble friend Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, I invite him to contradict me when he is replying, by producing any election address or any speech of his in which he

had raised the question of reducing the Minister's salary as a definite issue. My Hon'ble friend has said in his speech that since power has been given to us under the Government of India Act to reduce the Ministers' salary, we must exercise it. Let us test this argument. Let me ask hon'ble members in this Council—are you prepared to use whatever power you have got, straightaway? If so, why don't you give votes to women? The Act gives the legislature power to give votes to women? Are you prepared to give votes to women? If not, why not? Is it not because you realise that abstract general arguments are slippery in questions like these? There are deeper considerations at issue to which we must apply our minds before we come to a decision in an important matter like this. Sir, there are those who say that it is on account of our financial position that we must reduce the Ministers' salary. Let us examine this plea. Assuming that there is a deficit—I base my argument upon an assumption because, since the Budget has not been presented, we are not exactly aware of our financial position but assuming for the sake of argument that there is a deficit, and a very large deficit, is it seriously contended that the few thousands that we shall be able to save by reducing our Ministers' salaries would relieve us from anxiety with regard to our financial position? There is, Sir, a saying that is much used in Bengali households, an equivalent almost of the English proverb, "penny wise, pound foolish," which we would do well to bear in mind in this connection. By all means save money by retrenchment, but before you cut down expenditure, study the machinery of Government very carefully and then decide what are the superfluous parts that can be got rid of at once. But to propose at the very first meeting of the Council that the salaries of Ministers should be reduced, when not long ago all political parties, in this country were unanimous in demanding that there should be no difference between the pay of a Minister and that of a Member of the Executive Council, when the Budget has not been placed before us and we are unaware of our exact financial position and when the Ministers are not yet properly seated in their saddle, is, I venture to think, neither wise nor politic. I do not say that because political parties in India were once united in demanding that the Ministers' salary should be the same as that of a Member of the Executive Council, we should never consider the question of reduction. Sir, I do not wish to exaggerate the importance of consistency. A pedantic consistency is a sterile frame of mind. But, Sir, before we change our opinion, we must be persuaded that a change is required by reason of altered circumstances or otherwise. And I respectfully submit to the Council that as yet nothing has happened to make us change our opinion. But as I have said, I am by no means averse to returning to this question later. But I am opposed altogether to any reduction of the Ministers' salary forthwith without fuller knowledge and consideration of our financial position, and other important and relevant facts.

Mr. R. M. WATSON-SMYTH: I rise to oppose all these motions and the amendments which refer to them. I did not come down to this Council with any mandate, as some have; I came down perfectly prepared to be convinced if the arguments were sufficiently strong, but I must admit that I have heard nothing so far that has convinced me that there is any necessity at present at any rate to reduce the pay of the Ministers. We have heard a good deal of extraneous matter brought into this debate which really is not to the point at all. What does it matter, when considering the pay of the Ministers in Bengal in 1921, what Alexander the Great paid to his Ministers, as was adduced by the mover of the first resolution? Then again, he led us down through the fascinating byeways of Hindu mythology and explained what it was that the gods and goddesses of old days did for those who loved and served them. So far as I can make out, they paid them no salary, but they sometimes made them kings. I do not know whether my friend Mr. Mitter, would like to exchange his salary for this condition, but I should think not. Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea was once, I believe, called the uncrowned king of Bengal, but I do not think he would like to go back to that day. Then, again, all these comparisons, whether from Hindu mythology, ancient history, Queensland, Japan and the like, have nothing to do with the matter. A comparison to be a real comparision must be on the same ground. Certainly we are not on the same lines as Japan, and to compare us with Queensland would be absurd. If you are going to compare us with Queensland, you might compare the population of Queensland with the population of Bengal, so that the Minister of Bengal should have twenty times the salary of the Prime Minister of Queensland. No, Sir, the true test of all is to bring it down to an ordinary business-like level. What is the pay that is compatible with the dignity of the posts as created by the British Parliament and which is likely to attract the right class of men to hold these appointments? The Ministers who have been appointed are, we all admit, an excellent choice, and as far as that is concerned, I think that this Council will agree that we have got the best men that were available at the moment. Therefore, so far as that is concerned, I think there is no argument. Then it comes to this. They have a hard task; they have a very difficult road to pursue and they should be started off along that road with the sympathy and encouragement of this Council, who should not be too critical of any shortcomings. But it is hard lines to send them on their difficult way to what lies before them without sympathy and to start them with a vote of censure by cutting their pay without giving them a chance of earning it. Of course we have heard a great deal about economy and poverty. Nobody has greater sympathy with poverty than I have, and nobody a greater admiration for economy; but the poverty we have been given instances of will not be changed by cutting off a few thousand rupees from the pay of the Ministers; the savings will not amount to so

much and it will make no difference. In fact, if the poor people of Bengal had to be experimented on by the amateur economists of this country in the manner explained to us yesterday, their poverty would certainly be increased. What a number of sins and fallacies are committed in the name of economy. This Reforms Scheme, this new constitution, is a great fabric that is built on the foundation of the Governor, Executive Council and Ministers. Is it economy that would start by cutting down the foundation of your building? Surely that is not economy, only foolish extravagance. Then again, as an instance of the way in which these economists on this Council are finding their strength and trying to use it, I will give you an example. Yesterday I asked one member whether he was sure, if the salaries were cut down, the present Ministers would accept the reduced salary. That member in reply said he did not know and did not care. I asked him, "If you cut the salary down to Rs. 3,000, whom are you going to get?" He replied "You can get anybody"——

The PRESIDENT: I object to any discussion as to what the present Ministers would or would not accept. By entering into a discussion of this sort you only complicate matters.

Mr. R. M. WATSON-SMYTH: Am I allowed to go on and point out that if you reduce the salary you will reduce the quality?

The PRESIDENT: There is no objection to that. What I object to is to raise the issue what the present Ministers would or would not accept.

Mr. R. M. WATSON-SMYTH: I understand your ruling, Sir. As I said, my friend replied, "You can get anybody." That is exactly what we don't want. We do not want "anybody;" we want the best men in Bengal and if the pay is reduced, may not the time come when the quality will degenerate? This will be a start on the down-hill road of inefficiency; this is a dangerous path. It is dangerous because no man knows once he begins to go down-hill, where that path will lead to.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: There are very few Indian members present here who cannot but have the greatest sympathy with the spirit underlying the series of motions now before the House. No one standing here as an elected representative of the people can say that there is not a tremendous feeling in the country against the high scale of salary that the Government have thought fit to allow to the members of the Bengal Cabinet. India is a poor country, the income of an average Indian is far less than that of an individual in any other part of the world; on the other hand the living in India is comparatively cheap. Is it not then a cruel irony of fate that the officials under the administration of Indian provinces should be allowed by far a higher scale of salary than is allowed by any other Government in the world? The country undoubtedly demands a reasonable

reduction in the amount of their salary. I do not agree with Sir Henry Wheeler when he says that the best men would not be available for Ministership on a small salary. Men do not accept the post of a Minister to earn money; it is the spirit of patriotism and self-sacrifice which is the chief factor, and I dare say that India is not poor of such patriots. Sir, at the same time we realise that the salary of one section of the Cabinet, *viz.*, the Members of the Executive Council, is fixed by the Government of India Act and, in their case, we can do no more at present than express our pious wish for reduction of the amount by passing resolutions to that effect in the Council; but the case of the other section of the Cabinet, *viz.*, the Ministers, is quite different. Here we, the members of the Council, are empowered under the Act to fix a reasonable salary for our Ministers. Such being the case, I quite appreciate the spirit of those of our friends who think that by voting upon a reasonable salary for our Ministers we would considerably strengthen our hands in carrying on a vigorous agitation for reducing the salary of the Members of the Executive Council to the level of that of the Ministers. But with all respect to those friends, I beg to submit that this would be a most improper course to follow from the political standpoint of view. Sir, my hon'ble friend, Mr. Ghose, has already told the House what some of the most eminent Indian leaders think of this question. It would not be out of place if I lay before the House the views expressed by different public bodies in India on the matter of a Minister's salary when those bodies specially assembled some two years back to consider the Reforms Report, and I hope their opinion would carry weight with the House. At the special session of the Congress held at Bombay in September 1918, under the presidency of Mr. Hassan Imam, the following resolution was passed on the motion of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: "The status and salary of the Ministers shall be the same as those of the Members of the Executive Council." Sir, this motion, amongst others, was supported by the late Lokemanya Tilak and Pandit Motilal Nehru.

Again, at the special conference of the Moderates, held at Bombay in November 1918, under the presidency of Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea on the motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Shastri, the following resolution was passed: "Status and emoluments of the Ministers should be identical with those of the Executive Councillors."

Again at the special session of the All-India Moslem League, held also at Bombay in September 1918, under the presidency of the Hon'ble the Raja of Mahmudabad, on the motion of the Hon'ble Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq, the following resolution was passed: "The status and salary of the Ministers shall be the same as that of the Members of the Executive Council."

Sir, the report of the committee of the non-official members of the Indian Legislative Council recommended that "Ministers be placed as regards status and emoluments, on a footing of equality with the

Members of the Executive Council." The non-official members of the last Bengal Legislative Council in their report on the Reforms Scheme said "that the status, privileges and emoluments of Ministers should be the same as those of the Members of the Provincial Executive Council."

Sir, these are the opinions of some of the most powerful and representative political public bodies in the country; we cannot ignore these opinions, and I have every hope that the House will take these into consideration in arriving at a decision on the subject. Sir, I ask, is it proper or would it add to our prestige and dignity if our chosen representatives on the Cabinet get a smaller salary than the nominees of the Government on the same body? When we engage a servant, we fix his salary according to his worth. Would it not be depreciating the worth of our Ministers if they are given a smaller salary than that of their Secretaries? We cannot judge our Ministers on the analogy of the honorary chairmen of the district boards or the honorary Magistrates. We are to bear in mind that the Ministers are whole-time servants of the State, that they are not to engage themselves in any other professions, and that they shall have to work as hard as any whole-time paid official of the State.

Taking all these into consideration, should we make an invidious distinction between our chosen representatives and an official appointed by the Government? I call our Ministers our chosen representatives, because no Governor's mandate can keep them in their ministerial chair if we do not want them. I attach no importance to the argument that it is not in our power to reduce the salaries of the Councillors appointed by the Government unless we first reduce the salary of our Ministers. I do affirm that it is absolutely in our power to reduce their salaries too. The same power of public opinion which has in a way revolutionised the whole system of the Government would far more easily enable us to effect a reduction in the salaries of our over-paid officials. Let us unite our efforts, and I dare say we will secure the desired reduction in their salaries in no time. The matter of reducing the salary of a Minister is entirely in our hands; we can reduce it whenever we like. Such being the case, what is the need of this undue haste? I appeal to the House to make a united effort for an all-round reduction of the salaries of all the Members of our Cabinet and not to single out our own representatives as the first victims of our disapproval of high salaries enjoyed by the officials of the Government of Bengal. Sir, I oppose the motions.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler has given to this Council such a clear enunciation of the principle on which the salaries of the Ministers were fixed on the same level as that of the Members of the Executive Council of this Government that I have no desire to

detract from the admirable speech which he made in defending the policy on which the Government put the salary of the Ministers and that of the Members of Council alike. Nor is it my intention in any way to minimise the importance of the spirit of economy by which certain speakers who have moved these resolutions have been actuated. But to those who have advocated that principle of economy, I should like to ask, without in any way passing any disparaging remarks on their patriotism or their strong feelings on the subject, what has happened to infuse suddenly the spirit of economy in the hearts of the people of Bengal? I do not for a moment wish to belittle the question of the need for economy in this province; but what I suggest is that the question is by no means a new one; and that the method that it is proposed to apply is not only novel, but, what is more, very short-sighted. If, for instance, the representatives of the people of Bengal who have come to this Council have to face a real economic question, it will not be solved either by the reduction of the salaries of Members or of Ministers, and, however much you may in your race for economy leave behind efficiency, you will not be able to get away from the problems of new taxation which are bound to arise. Therefore, to those in whose minds are lurking such visions that they can lull to sleep the spirit of taxation by this economy, I can say that they are going the wrong way about it. You are impairing the administration by your thirst for economy and by your fear for new taxation; and I point it out as dispassionately as it is possible for me to do so. Let us consider India or Bengal as we find it to-day. I am a very old friend of the mover of the first resolution with regard to the reduction of the pay of the Ministers, if I may just for a moment or two refer to some of the arguments which he put forward as to what the state of things was and not what the state of things is to-day, I should like to say that this is not an age of what might have been or might be, but that we have to face the situation as we find it. I know that my friend has very simple pastoral instincts in his soul, but I know him too well to take him seriously.

The PRESIDENT: I have to call the Hon'ble Member to order, as I do not think that he should make any personal reflection.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The references which my friend, the mover of the original resolution has made with regard to a state of India as it was at a time when we were not born, will not help us to-day. I was not making a personal attack, as our respected President thought it to be. I have been in this Council for a very long time and I know the rules and I am here to obey them. But my object is to point out that it is no good drawing pictures of things as they were in the old days; we should endeavour to bring out such arguments that alone can weigh with the sense of this Council and that of sensible people to-day.

Now, why was it that the salary of Ministers was fixed the same as that of the Members of the Executive Council? Not merely for the reasons which Sir Henry Wheeler has given, but also this, that when you are going to entrust your representatives with the highest administrative work in your province, the most sensible thing for you to do is to fix the salary on the same scale as that fixed for the highest administrative posts. And that is a thing which I think that the members of this Council would do well to remember. Whether, as a matter of general principle, you should, at the risk of impairing the efficiency of administration, reduce the salaries of all high posts all round is not actually before the Council, and that is why it is all the more deplorable that, when you know that you have the power in your hands to reduce the salary the moment you choose, you should try to use the pruning knife without considering and knowing actually what the work of the Ministers is likely to be, without knowing after a trial what your purse-strings are likely to be. If you want to reduce, simply because you have been given the power of reduction for certain posts, I say that it is a very unsound policy; and I hope that any member of this Council who may have had any personal feelings regarding the present Ministers will, once for all, banish them and take the larger, the broader and more catholic view. I have no mandate, and even if I had, I would not bring it out for you. My request is, as Kumar Shib Shekhareswar has pointed out in the course of this debate, why this undue haste when it is up to you to reduce the salary if you want to at any time, and why do you make this invidious distinction at this stage, when you have not examined whether the work of the Ministers and the Members is really alike, whether they have the same responsibilities on their shoulders? If it is so, you should first examine the whole situation and then come to a final conclusion.

Then, again, the policy that, because we cannot reduce certain salaries regarding which we can only make recommendations, we should show that this country is poor and therefore say to the Government that we do not believe in these high salaries and that we should cut down the pay of the Ministers, is an unsound one, whatever may be the motives of the gentlemen who have brought forward these resolutions; and I am sure that they are inspired by the highest motives. In practice, it would only mean cutting your nose to spite your face.

Another thing that I should like the members of this Council to remember is that, if the Reforms Scheme is going to be a success—which we all hope it will be—and materialises as time goes on under the ordinary law of evolution, the number of the Members of the Executive Council must be reduced and in time they must cease to exist; and the Ministers alone will be those who will be responsible for the administration. If I am right, and I think I am, then it will be well for the members of this Council to remember something more; and that is this, that a time will come when the Governor will only formally appoint the

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Ministers. A time will come when the members of this Council will practically select these Ministers: and when the time comes, it will depend upon the parties that are in the House and not merely on the personalities of the Ministers. We may have Ministers who are highly desirable; but what if we have an extreme wing or a wing who desire to make mischief and who wish to spite those whom they do not like? These things are happening in Europe every day now, and if that be so, it may not always be possible to get men simply to accept from the spirit of self-sacrifice. Therefore, Sir, the emoluments should be such that the best men may be attracted. We should not forget that Cæsar's wife should be above suspicion. Perhaps my friends know what high salaries are paid to the senior members of European firms. I am sorry that Mr. Watson-Smyth did not make any reference to this: and the reason why they pay such high salaries is that contentment and comfort make for good administration. It is not merely that you should look to to-day but to-morrow and to five and ten years hence, when you come to decide a question of this nature.

One word more, Sir, and I am done: and that is that I strongly urge those of my fellow-countrymen and representatives of Bengal to remember what His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught said when he opened this very Council Chamber, and that is that on Bengal's dictum will depend the dictum of India. Simply because a backward province like the Central Provinces decided to fix the salary of Ministers at Rs. 3,000 are the people of Bengal, who are so intelligent, who are so far-seeing, not to examine the question more dispassionately and in all its bearings before they come to a decision of this kind? I therefore sincerely hope that better judgment will prevail and that no hasty decision will be come to in this matter.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: In intervening in this debate I am quite conscious that the most important considerations have already been placed before this House: but my apology for intervening in order to offer a few observations is that not very long ago, I was associated with a Commission, one of the most important duties of which was to consider the question of salaries, and we devoted two years or more to the consideration of this among other important questions. The question before the Council is one of supreme importance so far as the proper working of the new Government is concerned. You are all familiar with the manifold criticisms that have been hurled at the new scheme, *i.e.*, the system of diarchy, and we cannot be too careful in taking measures that the system which has been inaugurated is successful. The first and foremost condition of such success is that the two sections of the Government should work harmoniously. As has been pointed out by one of the speakers in the course of the debate, this would not be possible if one section of the Government did not enjoy the same status, privileges and salary as the

other section. During the period of two years that I was on the Public Services Commission, I heard all over India unanimous complaints from leaders of public opinion, as well as public servants, as to the differentiation of pay in the services; but I am perfectly conscious that the Ministers do not stand on the same footing as the ordinary officials. At the same time it is but human nature that those who are employed on the same duties should expect to receive the same treatment. It has been suggested that the Ministers will be guaranteed the same status by reason of the fact that they would be exercising equal responsibilities and powers; and, as was observed by Mr. Watson-Smyth, it may be that, though particular Ministers may not be influenced in the discharge of their duties by the emoluments which are fixed for the office, yet in course of time, it is absolutely certain that lower pay will in the eyes of the people lower the position of the Ministers.

As I have told you, the demand for equal pay was absolutely unanimous before the Public Services Commission, and I must admit to the House that it was with considerable surprise that I found that some of the elected members of this Council proposed less pay to their Ministers than is given by Statute to Members of the Executive Council. It was said by the mover of this proposition, Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, that his proposition was intended to assert a certain principle; it was intended to demonstrate that the country is of opinion that the payment of high salaries to Government officials is unjustified. But, Sir, it must be clear to everyone that this assertion of principle is in the circumstances not only entirely barren, but can have no significance, unless those who are asserting this principle are able to find out definitely in what directions there can be useful retrenchment so far as the salaries of officials are concerned.

Now, take for instance the Imperial Services. It is not within the competence of this Council to consider whether the emoluments attached to these offices are too high or not. Take the other services, the Provincial Services. Is it the opinion of any member of this House that they are paid unduly high salaries? For the past several years up to now, the clamour has been universal that the salaries which are paid are not sufficient; and that owing to the increased cost of living the salaries are far from adequate; and the Government have therefore been obliged to increase the salaries of the Provincial Services. Can it be said that there is really any serious idea in the mind of any member of this Council that the pay attached to the Provincial Services is too high? The argument that this proposition is moved in order to assert some great principle has really no significance.

There is no abstract standard by which the salary of Ministers can be fixed, and the only practical way in which you can come to a proper decision is to take the existing circumstances into consideration. It is no good trying to bring in analogies from other countries. We have got to see what the conditions are in Bengal. If we consider that, then I

submit to this House that the salary already fixed by His Excellency the Governor is the proper salary for the Ministers.

Now, if we look at the several concrete propositions that are before the House, some of them seem to me to be based on absurd theories. Are we going to pay the Ministers the same salary as a young Civilian Joint Magistrate or an Executive Engineer or a District Officer gets? The House, I am sure, cannot but fully realise the great responsibilities of the office of a Minister. They are in charge, as you were told the other day, of some of the most important departments, not only most extensive but the most productive and progressive departments. These are departments on which depend the development of the people of this province and of the material resources of the province. Take the Department of Public Health. If the Hon'ble Minister in charge of that Department is able to solve that great problem of Bengal, malaria, does not the House think that any salary that can be given is not too much for that Minister? Take again the problem of education. Now it is the Minister who has got to work out and solve this difficult problem, who is able to think out what is the best form of education suited to this province, where the present system of education is defective and what are the remedies to be applied. If he is able to inaugurate a proper and useful system of primary and secondary and University education, do you not think that he will amply justify any salary that the Council can give him? Similarly, the Minister in charge of the industries has a very great task before him, and if that Minister is successful in setting on foot some industrial scheme which would improve the material resources of the province, he would repay his salary more than a hundredfold. Sir, in my opinion, it would be too narrow, too short-sighted a policy for the House to stint itself in a matter of this kind.

A great deal has been said as regards the volume of the work that is to be done by the seven Members of Government. I wish only to say this, that the House should bear in mind that the duties which are entrusted to the Ministers and the Members are not merely to dispose of current files. The most important duty of the Ministers as well as of the Members of the Executive Council consists in thinking out the larger problems, the larger policies, that affect the well-being of the province. If this Council take all these facts into consideration I venture to hope that it will not insist on curtailing the salary of the Ministers.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: I rise to support the motion moved by various members for fixing the salaries of Ministers. I feel that I must begin by replying to Mr. D. C. Ghose's reference to a Bengali proverb and to his query as to why we are discussing the Ministers' salaries the very first day by referring him to a Persian proverb—"Kill the cat the very first day."

Sir, the question of the salaries of the Ministers is the burning question of the day. It has been exercising the minds of the public not only of one province, but of the whole of India; and a small province has already set a great example for bigger provinces to follow. Shall Bengal, the premier province in India, lead or lag behind? That is the question before the House to-day.

Sir, the speech of the illustrious speaker on behalf of Government, on whom Lakshmi and Saraswati have showered their gifts—the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan—has made a deep impression on me, and I must confess that, influenced by the opinion of my respected and valued friend the Hon'ble Raja Reshee Case Law, who made out a strong case for the equality of Ministers and Members before the Franchise Committee on which I had the honour to serve as a representative of Bengal, I myself had on more occasions than one publicly championed the cause of the equality of status and dignity of Ministers. I have been asked what has happened to make me change my mind. Many things have happened. When I pressed for the equality of salaries of Ministers and Members, I never realised that the number of members of Government would be seven. When I demanded the equality of status and dignity of Members and Ministers, I never dreamt for a moment of a salary of Rs. 5,000 for each. When I cried for bread I never bargained for stone—a millstone round our neck to drag down the fabric of diarchy to bankruptcy, anarchy and ruin. Sir, many things have happened to make one change one's mind. Yet I still believe in the equality of salaries of Ministers and Members, but I also do believe in example being better than precept and in charity beginning at home. Let us first of all fix the salaries of Ministers. Then and then alone we can with justice and fairness plead to the Members to accept a similar amount.

Sir, we have on the Ministerial bench to-day a leader whose labours commenced long before many of us saw the light of day. All his fellow-workers have departed, and Bengal is fortunate in having the last of the stalwarts as the first of its Ministers. One of the earliest lessons impressed upon us by him and his associates was the costliness of the British system of administration in India. The walls of this historic hall have often resounded with the denunciations of the waste and extravagance of an alien rule—denunciations of the members of the heaven-born service sleeping on the cool heights of Simla or Darjeeling drawing princely salaries. Sir, let some one rise in his place to-day from the Ministerial bench and declare that all these denunciations were mere stage-thunders, these fulminations mere sound and fury, and I am prepared to pause and reflect and withdraw my support from the resolutions. Otherwise, let the Ministers set an example of self-sacrifice for others to follow.

Sir, it is said that the saving of a few lakhs would be a mere drop in the ocean: but for a people who still count their wealth in cowries and price a saving of a few rupees means much. Besides, we find Government mindful of pennies whatever they might do with pounds. Under the Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal I, with other members of Council, had the privilege of having a liveried *chaprasi* and refreshments at Government House. With the advent of the Governor, his band and bodyguard, the *chaprasis* and the refreshments disappeared. Under the present régime we not only miss the genial presence, the inspiring personality and the commanding figure of His Excellency, but we miss also the generous hospitality of the Earl of Ronaldshay. I need not lament my loss of the liveried *chaprasis* any more as I notice a reduction in the number of *jamadars* and *chaprasis* of the Hon'ble Members of Government. Sir, when Government are driven to save a few pennies by such means, I do not think we are justified in affecting the Grand Seignior or playing the Great Moghul and turn round and say "a saving of a few lakhs is a mere drop in the ocean."

Sir, it is said that if we exercise our powers under section 52 of the Act we would reduce the salaries of the Ministers for all time. I do not share this view, but admitting for argument's sake its correctness I ask—What then? Would the heavens fall? If so, let truth triumph and justice be done even if the heavens fall. Would the Ministers resign? An Amurath will succeed an Amurath. As to the mild threat of the dissolution of the House, let him tremble who has entered it by the skin of his teeth and who may not enter it again, should there be a fresh general election.

It is said that a salary of less than Rs. 5,333 will fail to induce good men to accept office. I fail to see what magic is there in the figure Rs. 5,333. If a salary of £1,500 a year did not stand in the way of Lord Sinha's acceptance of office, if Mr Bhupendra Nath Basu could be persuaded to cross the seas, if Sir Ashutosh could be attracted to the High Court Bench—and the salary of a High Court Judge is less than that of a Minister and he has no Secretaries to write out his judgments—I am not convinced that a reduced salary would fail to attract good men imbued with genuine patriotism and true ardour and love for their country. We have been told that in ancient India Brahmins occupying the highest offices in the State never cared to accept any salary. The days of Chanakya and Sayanacharya are gone. Plain living and high thinking are no more. Yet we have in Bengal, even to-day, a Brahmin who, after the labours of his responsible office, devotes the rest of the day to the difficult task of promoting the intellectual uplift and advancement of his people, undaunted by opposition, undeterred by malicious misrepresentation, without remuneration, without reward and without any recognition from Government—a man the like of whom you will not find in the whole of India, were you to raise the dignity of the Wardenship of the University to that of the Viceroyality of India and offer a Viceroy's

salary for his services. Sir, Bengal is poor in wealth, but it is still rich in the spirit of self-sacrifice.

Now one argument remains, the great argument of equality of status and dignity. But as it has been well asked by a previous speaker, dignity and status in whose estimation—the Government or the people? As to Government they have maintained the equality of status and dignity of Members and Ministers with scrupulous care. Sir, on the Government bench to your right you have a Knight Commander, a Companion of the Star of India and a Maharajadhiraja. To your left you have got, if not a Maharajadhiraja, a Nawab, a Companion of the Indian Empire and a Knight—a far-sighted Government have quickly removed the slightest shadow of suspicion of inequality between Members and Ministers by making a belted Knight of the erstwhile uncrowned king of Bengal. Sir, so far as the outward paraphernalia of office "the boast of heraldry and the pomp of power" are concerned, the equality is complete of Members and Ministers—of Monmouth and Macedon. You have got a bedezzed gentlemen to your right, you have got a bedezzed gentlemen to your left. Only the golden tassel is wanting the gold itself is wanting, but what matters it so long as the guinea stamp is there?

As for dignity, in the eyes of the people (and the Ministers are the servants of the people, not officials, so says Sir Surendra Nath), does it require any argument to establish that the voluntary relinquishment of whole or part of their salaries by Ministers would enhance and not lower their prestige in the estimation of the people? Sir, is it too much to expect that, following the noble traditions of ancient India, the Brahmin Minister of to-day, who has kindled in our breast the enthusiasm and ardour of patriotism, and who has lighted in the altar of our hearts the fire of self-sacrifice and self-abnegation, who was the the ideal of our youth, the admiration of our manhood and who for 40 years or more had served, without reward and without remuneration—is it too much, I ask, to expect that he should rise to the height of the occasion and declare that he is still willing to serve for honour and not honorarium—to serve as before his country and community for the honour and glory of service? Sir, the shades of Annanda Mohan Bose and W. C. Bonnerji anxiously await the decision of the House and the undying echoes of the voices of the immortal dead, which sleep in the nooks and corners of this historic hall, disturbed by the heat and passion of debate, awake to cry applause or shame.

Mr. D. J. COHEN: I support the amendment put forward for reference to a committee. We have before us more than one motion which reveals that a certain number of members consider the salary of Rs. 64,000 per annum to be excessive. If this question be referred to a committee, it could be dealt with in its various aspects and the result of their deliberations will assist the Council in deciding on the merits of such individual or alternate recommendations as may

be embodied by the committee in the report of their proceedings. So far two important reasons have been adduced as to why the salary should be maintained at the same figure as that received by a Member of the Executive Council. There may be other reasons both for and against the proposal; consequently, in fairness both to the Ministers as well as the members, we should deal with this question in which there appears to be a divergence of views, in a manner that will ultimately lead to an issue which would be acceptable to the majority of the members. The two reasons just alluded to by me are first, that a reduction of salary will lower the prestige or status of Ministers as compared to that of Members of the Executive Council and secondly, that a smaller salary will not attract the best men of the province to these appointments. I cannot believe that monetary considerations necessarily decide the status of a public office. We have several examples of public-spirited citizens giving up lucrative professions and taking up public appointments which yield comparatively meagre emoluments. The honour and dignity attached to the office appear to be the more potent factors, while the spontaneous desire which springs forth from a patriotic zeal to help materially in promoting the welfare and developing the interests of their country at a time when their services are needed, and when the opportunity is afforded them of proving their capability to participate in the government of the country, seem to me to be the only consideration that should and undoubtedly will appear to the men who are best qualified to fill those offices and who can realize that the important trust attached to the offices renders them valuable in other respects, if not monetarily. We cannot divorce the question of finance in deciding this question, as has been pointed out by speakers who preceded me. If this is accepted by the House, it will dispose of the amendment of Mr. Das Gupta to adjourn the consideration of this question till after the Budget, as the deliberations of the committee are not likely to mature before that period.

Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur: I rise to support the motion moved by Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur. I must at the outset say that this motion embodies the independent public opinion of Bengal. Sir, our country is poor—too poor to bear the heavy burden of cost, and I may say that the top is much heavier rather disproportionately heavier than the base. Now, Sir, to meet the immediate requirements of the country more money is urgently needed—I mean to say much more money than what is ordinarily budgeted for. The bulk of the people are sunk in ignorance and illiteracy and to drive away ignorance or illiteracy from the land money is urgently needed. Thousands of people are dying from malaria and other preventible diseases and to combat them—to grapple with the situation successfully—there is an importunate demand for money. There are other hundred and one similar purposes of an urgent character for which more money is needed.

Besides these, Government have got to meet a large deficit. Now, Sir, I put this question before the Council,—considering the circumstances, is it fair, is it just to appoint three ministers at a huge cost, namely, an annual salary of Rs. 64,000 each? Sir, economy demands that the pruning knife of retrenchment must be rigidly applied in all possible directions. In countries which are much richer than ours, where living is dearer than here, the pay of Ministers is much less, some notable instances of which have been given by the mover and other speakers, and I do not like to multiply instances and encroach upon the precious time of the Council. Now, Sir, this strengthens my position that the salary of the Ministers should be reduced. Last of all, I shall appeal to the Ministers themselves. I appeal to their patriotism to set a good example to their countrymen by generously coming forward to accept a reduced salary, and to give a signal proof that there is no paucity of worthy and eminent Indians who can carry on the administration successfully at a personal sacrifice and a further proof that if the services are Indianized the cost of the administration will be materially reduced.

With these words, I support the motion put by Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur.

At this stage the Council adjourned for fifteen minutes.

After the adjournment.

Mr. S. R. DAS: So many speakers have spoken on this question of salaries of the Ministers, and so many speakers, I know, still desire to speak on the subject, that I hesitated to inflict any speech on this House. But I feel that I must say a few words as a protest against one of the grounds which has been put forward by those who have supported the resolution. Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder Ghose stated that a hundred public meetings had taken place and that instructions had been given to the members from their constituencies to support this resolution. Now we all know how these meetings are engineered, and is it seriously suggested that we, as responsible men, are bound to follow blindly the uninformed opinion expressed in public meetings by those who have not the same opportunity as we have of studying this question? I have come here on the distinct understanding with my constituency that I shall reserve my judgment, my absolute independence of judgment, in all matters that come up here. My arrangement with my constituency is that I shall from time to time meet with them, not in any public meeting, because I do not believe in public meetings, but in groups of 10 or 12, explain to them the Bills or resolutions that come up before the House and tell them what my views are and what ought to be the attitude that we should take on those questions and endeavour to carry them always with me. If I should find that my constituency is opposed to me or rather that I do not represent their views after they have heard me, I emphasise that point, if I then find that I do not represent their views, I would much rather resign, so as to enable them

to have another man to represent them, who will put forward their views. I refuse to put forward views merely because they are those of my constituency when I do not consider them to be in the interests of my country. I submit to the serious consideration of this House whether that ought not to be the attitude of all members. After all we have greater opportunities of studying and discussing these matters with people who are likely to know, and if our voters in our constituency form an opinion, that opinion is bound to be much less informed than ours. Our duty is to study the questions, exercise our judgment independently and vote accordingly, and then try to carry our constituency with us. We are here, I submit to the House, to lead our constituency and not to be led by them. It will be a great disaster if in voting on these resolutions we follow the principle that, because at a particular public meeting a particular view has been expressed, we are bound to vote according to that public opinion.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): I just want to say a few words from the point of view of the Finance Department and will not take the time of the Council long. The Council is clearly interested in this and other administrative questions, and I think it may be of assistance to them in coming to a conclusion if I describe very briefly how we deal with matters of this kind that come up to the Finance Department in regard to appointments which the local Government have the power to sanction. In the first place we consider whether an appointment is necessary or desirable. In the present case this Council could not consider that point, because it has been settled for them by an Act of Parliament, and therefore the only question for them is what rate of pay they should give. These posts are bound to be expensive posts, and we cannot but consider our financial position before we decide to sanction any rate of pay. I am not going to anticipate the secrets of the Budget, but I may say that the pay of the Ministers, at the same rate as the Executive Councillors, would be exceedingly small in proportion to our revenue, only a small fraction of 1 per cent. of the provincial income, and a few thousand rupees one way or the other will make very little difference in our financial position. The next question is, do these posts carry any market value under any general rule? There are plenty of posts like clerkships, Deputy Collectorships, Sub-Inspectors of Police, and so on, for which definite qualifications are required, and we know exactly what market rate is required to get men with those requisite qualifications. These posts of Ministers obviously do not come under that category, and the rate of pay cannot be based on any market rate. There are various proposals that have been put before the Council in regard to the rate of pay for these posts. If you will look at the paper, you will find that the first proposal is to fix the salary in sterling at the rate given in England to the Under-Secretary

of State for India. For the reasons given by Sir Henry Wheeler I think we cannot fix it at that figure. Then the next proposal is to pay the Ministers Rs 1,000 a month, which is the pay of a junior Superintendent of Police, and that is obviously too low. The next proposal is that the salary of a Minister should not exceed Rs 2,500 a month That is the pay of a senior Collector of 20 years' service, and I think that also is not suitable. The next proposal is to pay Rs. 3,000 a month, the pay of a Commissioner, this again is not adequate. The next proposal is to fix the salary at Rs 3,500, the pay of the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation and the Chairman of the Calcutta Improvement Trust, which, of course are highly responsible offices, but still not nearly as responsible as that of a Member of Council or a Minister. When we look round outside the various proposals that have been made in this Council we see that there are certain officers called Members of Council who do the very same work as the Ministers perform, and we should be inclined to think that unless very good reasons to the contrary are shown, the Ministers should get the same pay as the Members of Council. This is not an imaginative way of dealing with things, but it is the way of sound common sense and I commend it to the consideration of the Council.

Colonel A. J. PUCH: I move that the question be now put

The PRESIDENT: I think the matter has already been discussed sufficiently, although many other members have expressed their desire to speak on the subject It is better that I should put the question before the House.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: I call for a division

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: May I rise to a point of order as to whether those gentlemen who have already spoken have a right to move for a closure

The PRESIDENT: Yes, I have explained why I think that the question should be put. The House may now divide

The closure was then put and declared lost, the voting being 62 for and 43 against it, a two-thirds majority not being obtained.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MAITRA: I rise to support the motion of Mr. Hamid-ud-din Khan that the salary be fixed at not more than Rs. 3,000 a month. I have been discussing this matter with several friends of mine in and out of this Council, but nowhere have I been able to find out any cogent reasons for fixing their salaries at a higher sum Sir, I am one of those who like to see our Ministers well paid and contented for maintaining their prestige and dignity, and I am one of those who would also like to appoint Ministers from the best brains of Bengal. But granting all that I do not admit that a salary of Rs. 3,000 a month will not be adequate and compatible with their position and status. Sir,

the Ministers are our own people, born and nursed in the poor cradle of Bengal and bred amongst an environment where a person's worth has always been judged by the amount of his self-sacrifice and self-abnegation and never by the glitter of gold. Sir, how happy we would have been to-day had the Ministers themselves volunteered a reduction of their salaries and how high would they rise in the estimation of their countrymen. If the Hon'ble Ministers themselves have not found their way to do their duty to their poor country by a spirit of self-sacrifice, it behoves us, the first members of the Reformed Council of Bengal, to show in no uncertain terms that their country can ill-afford to pay them even a pice more than what is absolutely necessary for a decent living. I have given this matter my most earnest and impartial consideration and I am convinced that a salary higher than Rs. 3,000 a month should on no account be granted. This, I may add, is the maximum, which my own constituency has especially asked me to support, and I am in entire agreement with them. I fully believe that this sum will prove more than sufficient, if the Ministers do condescend to live in Indian style and conduct themselves as pure Indians with a sincere love of their country in their heart. This is at least the view of one who earns his daily bread by the sweat of his brow, and does not enjoy the sweets of inherited wealth.

Mr. A. C. DUTT: After so many lengthy speeches I do not think I shall be justified in detaining the House very long, but there is one thing I should like to say with reference to this matter. To start with I may say that I am opposed to all these resolutions and amendments. I say that the Ministers' salary should not be lowered at all, and the reasons are quite clear. Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur has said that Ministers ought to draw a salary of something like Rs. 1,875 a month, which corresponds to £1,500 a year. I do not know whether he seriously brought forward that proposition, because I am of opinion that, if that is the view of this Council, then the Reforms are gone. I have come here because I believe in the Reforms. With all their drawbacks I think the Reforms will push us forward and, in 10 or 15 years, we shall have a proper form of responsible government. If the Ministers' salary is fixed at Rs. 1,875, I am sure we shall not get capable men to undertake that task. I know Bengal abounds with patriotic people, but all patriotic people are not capable men. It is a notorious fact that, with a few honourable exceptions, we cannot get good men from the Bar to accept High Court Judgeships. The position of our Ministers is more difficult than the position of a Minister in a free country. He is responsible not only to the Council, but also to the Government, and he may be dismissed by the Governor; if he does not command a majority in the Council they may cut down his budget demand so as to make administration impossible. This is a temporary arrangement. As I understand, this system will continue for 10 years and no more. What is the saving that will be effected by the proposal which

has been moved by Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur? The saving would be something like Rs. 1¼ lakh a year and not more than that. You will really save about Rs. 10 or 12 lakhs in the next ten years, and for the purpose of that saving should we jeopardise the experiment? I think this proposal might very well have been moved by a non-co-operator, and, if Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder Ghose is a non-co-operator, he should not have been in this Council. These motions should have been moved by persons who want to see that the Reforms do not succeed. For these reasons I strongly suggest that the Ministers' pay should not be reduced even by a single penny.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: The House is getting a little impatient and I think it is our duty to make our observations as brief as possible. Sir, in my hand I have a report of a proceedings of a committee of non-official members of the Bengal Legislative Council appointed to consider the Reform proposals in accordance with a resolution passed by the members at the meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council held on the 14th November, 1918, which submitted its report to the Government of Bengal. Sir, that committee of non-official members was presided over by Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar, a man who is held in high esteem throughout Bengal, and I find that that report has been signed by men like Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra Mitra, Babu Surendra Nath Ray, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, Raja Resbee Case Law and Dr. A Suhrawardy, and, Sir, I find that on the 16th November, 1918, a resolution was passed, which was moved by the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K Fazl-ul Haq; and the resolution runs as follows:—"That the status, privileges and emoluments of the Ministers should be the same as those of the Members of the provincial Executive Council."

The committee unanimously agreed to the proposal.

Sir, these are my countrymen who are regarded as our greatest leaders. Many of them are present in this House to-night. I do not think that the proposition that Bengal is poor, that the people of Bengal are very destitute, that the economic position is very acute, has for the first time been discovered, just as Columbus discovered America. I think it was known to the great leaders at that time Were not they aware that this Reform Scheme, which was going to be introduced into this country, would be a costly administration? My friend Dr. Suhrawardy says he was himself not aware what this administration was going to cost. He may not have been aware of the number of members, but surely he was aware that the administration was going to be a bigger one and a costlier one. There is absolutely no shadow of doubt about that. Sir, I am not convinced that this reduction in the salary of Ministers will materially change the economic condition of the country. I do not know what that reduction will amount to; the members of the House have not been able to make up their minds. Some

think our Ministers ought to get Rs. 1,000, some think Rs. 1,500, others think Rs. 2,500 or Rs. 3,000, some say Rs. 3,500. The fact that we have not come to a decision yet shows that we have not yet been able to make up our minds in the matter. If reduction is to be made, why should reduction be made by first of all stultifying the position of our own countrymen? This is what I cannot understand. If reduction is to be made, let it be made from the very top. Why should not the Governor's salary be reduced? Why not the salary of the Executive Councillors? I cannot understand why our Ministers should get salaries less than their Secretaries. It is preposterous that our Ministers should get salaries which would take away the dignity of the post; besides, reduction will put a premium on mediocrity; it will mean an influx of men of mediocre ability and mediocre intelligence. The greatest calamity that can befall the country is to reduce it to mediocrity. Economy will be assured by efficiency first, so we want the best men; we do not want mediocre, incompetent men as our Ministers. Sir, I do not hold a brief for our present Ministers; they are on their trial, they will soon be tested; their abilities will soon be examined; if they do not rise to the occasion, they must go; they will be weighed in the balance, and, if they are found wanting, they must go. We want the very best men, and if we get the very best men, I am sure they will take the initiative; they will show us the way how to make retrenchment, how to effect economy. They are the men who will feel for the poor; they will tell us how to devise the means that will go to alleviate misery and distress.

Therefore, Sir, I oppose the resolution and all the amendments with all the emphasis I can command, because I see that it will surely lead to calamity and catastrophe.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN: My learned predecessors have discussed the subject in its various aspects. There remains very little to be discussed; yet considering the poverty of the province and the responsibility which lies on my shoulders, as a representative of 20 millions of people, most of whom are in a state of nakedness and almost without food, I am obliged to add a few words on this subject. I have come to learn that some of my colleagues are of opinion that if the salary of the Ministers be less than the salary of the Executive Councillors, the status of our Ministers will be lowered; but I appeal to those of my friends to consider what the status is. Does the gradation of status depend upon the money value of a post or on the responsibility of the post and respect thereby won?

While considering this I invite the attention of the House to the past history of the Muslims. When the Muslim Government was on a representative system, and the Khalifa or temporal Presidents were elected by the people, they would get only a small portion of the revenue; were they not respected by the people? Leaving aside the question of

status, if we consider the object of the Government, we find that good government is necessary for the progress of a country, by establishing peace and tranquillity. It is not meant to pay some persons high salaries to enable them to indulge in luxuries. Indeed, if the financial condition of a country permits, some sort of luxury may be allowed to officials, but in a province like Bengal where medical treatment for the poor is objected to on the excuse of want of money, can we allow such a luxury? Apart from the question of poverty, if we compare the salary of our Ministers with that of Ministers in Japan and Canada, as stated by our learned leader Rai Bahadur Jogéndra Chunder Ghose, we find that it is far greater. Is Bengal richer than Japan? Considering all these statements, I say I would have been glad if the salary of the Ministers be fixed at Rs. 1,000, although this figure is stated by some of my colleagues to be a ridiculous one; but I request those friends to wait for a few years and see whether it is really so. This idea is due to our blindness in regard to the question of status.

Before I sit down, I wish to submit one thing before the House.

[At this stage the member hesitated and appeared to sit down and the President called upon Mr. H. A. Stark to speak.]

Mr. H. A. STARK: The question to me seems to be "Are we going to make the Reform Scheme a failure or a success?" With all this harping on economy it does look as if we were going to starve the whole scheme. Efficiency may go, let us have economy. Dignity of office may go, give us economy. Capacity to do our work may go, let us study economy. The Reform Scheme itself may go too, let us have economy. Now economy in the abstract is generally regarded as a virtue, but it may become a fetish, a mere clap-trap or a shibboleth; it may even grow into a vice. What do we intend doing? Are we going to find cheap bargains in our Ministers? If we do, we shall some day pay dearly for our folly. The sound business man does not starve his factory. He puts into it the best plant he can purchase, the most expert workers that money can procure. He recognises that parsimony will be fatal. He realises that the quality of the output will be regulated by the quality of the machine and the ability of those who work it; and so he invests his money in men and materials, and pays adequately and even handsomely, and reaps his reward in large profits. Now, let us admit that we are all in this Council from motives of patriotism, but have we any right to put an unnecessary strain on any man's patriotism? We want men who will give us of their experience, their culture, their high ability, their time, their health, their all, and we would barter and haggle with them over remuneration. We put them in exalted positions of dignity and exacting responsibility, and we want them to carry their dignity and to bear the load of their responsibility for an inadequate return. We all know that men of outstanding worth often have unreasonable requests made of them.

The story goes that a provincial magazine in England once asked Mr. W. T. Stead to oblige by contributing an article to the journal, and also by giving them a New Year's motto. He replied that he had not the time to write an article, but the proprietors of the magazine were welcome to a New Year's motto—"Nothing for nothing, and damned little for sixpence." The Ministers would be perfectly justified were they to make this Council the same retort. Doubtless we shall always find men willing to be our Ministers for any salary whatever that we can offer, but cheapness and nastiness go together. Cheap Ministers will be dear at any price. Are we thinking of bidding for second-rate and third-rate men? I feel, and feel most strongly, that in the critical period through which we are passing, India cannot spend too much either on her statesmen or on her educators. In the ten years of our probation in responsible government, let us throw aside every other consideration, and put every pice we can into the machinery of our Government; every pice we can spare into speeding up the education of our people. In both matters of government and education we should deal generously with those upon whose efficiency and proficiency the future of responsible government really depends. We want that form of government—let us pay for it, and get it. The time is not yet when we should put our Ministers and our Government on short rations.

A great deal has been made of the poverty of the people and the hardships imposed on them by the salaries proposed for the Ministers. I think the hardship has been magnified by several diameters. A simple computation brings out the fact that if each person in Bengal pays less than one pie per month, the annual salaries of all three of our Ministers at Rs 64,000 each would be obtained. Less than one pie per man per month! I do not consider that asking people to pay one pie per month for the ministerial executive—without which popular government is impossible—is asking them to pay too much. Ten years hence a reckoning will be made. Let us lay the foundation of self-government upon a liberal scale so strong and broad that it will bear not only the first storey that it will fall to us to build, but that it may later attain its completion in a self-governing India within the Empire.

I oppose the original motion and all its amendments.

Mr. C. W. RHODES: I move that the question be now put.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN: I beg to invite your attention to one point——

The PRESIDENT: The motion now is that the question be now put. I must put that before the House.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I want a division.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: There are two more gentlemen who desire to speak, Sir—Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri and Babu S. N. Ray.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Order! I put the motion to a division.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I again ask you for a ruling on the point whether those who have spoken are entitled to vote.

The PRESIDENT: Yes.

A division that the motion be now put was taken with the result that 64 voted for and 45 against the closure. A two-thirds majority not being obtained, the closure was accordingly lost.

The debate was then resumed.

Sir ASHUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I had no desire to speak, but I feel, I must respond to the call. There can be no question that the position of a Minister is one of the highest in the country: and that the position itself will attract the best men in the country. When we are thinking of our best men, we are not thinking of men who are attracted by emoluments, but we are thinking of those who are inspired by their love for the country to work for the country. We want such men; and we may congratulate ourselves that we have got some such men. I am a disciple of one of these men, who has worked for the country for a great many years, and who, I have not the least doubt, has been attracted to this office for the opportunity that it gives him to serve the country.

We have heard a good deal about their status. Now, the status that the Ministers have is admittedly one of the highest and we do not want it to be reduced.

With regard to the question of prestige it has got to be won by work. We are not in the habit of thinking that pay makes position, prestige or status. The other day we passed a resolution that the number of the Executive Councillors should be reduced, and we did it on the ground of economy. We ask for economy; but, we have got the chance now of doing something for ourselves. We want our very best men as I have already said: but not men who will refuse to work for us, if they find that their pay is not equal to that of the Executive Councillors?

Now, Sir, may I read just one passage from the Report of the Joint Committee? "They advise that the status of Ministers should be similar to that of the Members of the Executive Council, but that the salaries should be fixed by the Legislative Council." Later on, in this report, we find: "It will be suggested that the Indian members of the Council of India in London should be paid a higher scale of remuneration than those of the members of the Council domiciled in the United Kingdom. The same principle might suggest itself to the Legislative

Council that it was reasonable for the Ministers of the Provincial Councils domiciled in India to be paid on a lower scale of remuneration than the European members." That is one ground for our thinking that the pay of our Ministers should be reduced as they are domiciled in the country. Are we to be told that persons elected as Members of this House, or persons selected by the Government having confidence in them, have been attracted to come here because of the possibility of their getting a high pay? I hope that that will not be said of our present Ministers. My idea is, that we ought to show that we can get our very best men at low figures. It has been said that we have always asked to be paid the same pay as officers selected by the Government. That was done on a racial basis, namely, that if they valued their men at a particular figure, we wanted our own men to be valued at the same figure.

We say that we can attract our very best men for a pay which is lower than the pay of the Executive Councillors. If we can do so, it must be conceded that the pay of the Executive Councillors, Government officers is too high, and that therefore their pay ought to be reduced. I am therefore in favour of the proposition that the pay of the Ministers should be reduced. If, as a disciple, I had to make my offerings to my *guru*, I should certainly wish that the whole wealth of Bengal be laid at his feet; but, when we are dealing with a matter which is for the good of the country he ought to be satisfied with less.

The PRESIDENT: I wish to tell the members of this Council that I have got a long list of speakers and that I intend to finish the discussion at this sitting. Therefore, the only way to finish it is for the members to make their speeches as short as they can.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I beg to support the motion that stands in the name of Maulvi Hamid-ud-din Khan that the salary of the Ministers be fixed at not above Rs. 3,000; and in doing so I not only feel called upon to explain why of all the motions under section 52(1) of the Government of India Act this one meets with my approval, but at the same time to state why I cannot vote for a ministerial salary being fixed at Rs. 64,000 per annum. I could have spared myself this labour, if I could be sure that there was no likelihood of our conduct being questioned or motives misinterpreted. Sir, believe me when I say that I have given every thought to the arguments that have been, or can possibly be, advanced with any show of reason for the proposal that the ministerial salary should not suffer any reduction; but in spite of all attempts to understand the position of the supporters of such a proposal, I have not been able to persuade myself to accept it. For what are after all the arguments in favour of non-reduction? The main point that I have been able to gather is that any reduction in the salary of the Minister will go to lower his position. Sir, this, I beg to say,

is a wrong supposition. The rank or dignity of an office-bearer depends, not on remuneration or pay attached to the office, but on the function and duties he has to perform—depends on the powers, and not on the pelf. Who was there, except the old woman at the countryside, who prayed for a darogaship for the Subdivisional Officer, who could think that the office of the English premier is interior in position to that of the Governor-General of India, simply because the latter gets much higher salary than the former? Nor can it be anything but puerile, I suppose, to argue that the status of the Secretary of State for India is lower than that of a member of the Viceregal Council because he gets lesser emoluments. As regards the Secretary of State, I know, the supporters of maximum ministerial salary will say that he has not got to come out to India. But they cannot avail of this argument without cutting off the grounds from under their own feet. However, the idea that the status of an official—a people's representative—depends on his pay is a much too antiquated one—a relic of old, which ill-assorts with reforms.

The second argument that is advanced in favour of non-reduction is that it will accentuate the difference between the Europeans and the Indians. How this argument can be literally true and applicable, when there are Indian councillors and Indians in the higher ranks of the Civil Service, we cannot appreciate. Even if it does accentuate the difference, it should cause others who are not in any way superior to our Ministers in ability and position to be ashamed of their conduct, and not disgrace or in any way lower the position of our Ministers. For the Ministers, by accepting a lower salary, will simply prove their kind consideration for their poor country, their high sense of patriotism and above all their fitness to be the people's representatives in the Government. If we are not to look to the Ministers to set examples, to establish by their ability and acceptance of a salary commensurate with the economic condition of their own people the case for reduction of administrative expenditure on unassailable grounds, then we do not know whom we can turn to. Will they not advance the cause of the Reforms by accepting a salary commensurate with the economic condition of their own people? Will they not rise in popular estimation thereby? Were not 6,000 francs a month responsible for the fall of Mirabeau, the only man who could bring about the constitutional reforms of France even in 1790! But I forget there is yet another, a third argument, that the Minister's salary should be sacrosanct and irreducible, in view of our incompetence to reduce the salary of the Executive Councillors and others. I think this argument can appeal only to those who think with the casuists that two wrongs will make one right. Our reply is that we were not responsible for the original scale, nor we have any hand in the matter. It was done by those who thought it best to impose the costliest administration on the poorest country in the world, and the inadequate nature of the Reforms in this

respect are responsible for it. The inadequate nature of our Reforms in this respect, which I say advisedly will at once appear to you if you simply take note from the following quotation from Erskine May of what prevailed before and happened after the Reform Act in England in this direction:—

"No example," says Erskine May, "more aptly illustrates the altered relations of rulers to the people than the revision of official emoluments. Ministers once grew rich upon the gains of office, and provided for their relatives by monstrous sinecures and appointments egregiously overpaid. To grasp a great estate out of the public service, was too often their first thought. Families were founded, titles endowed and broken fortunes repaired at the public expense. It was asked what an office was worth, not what services were to be rendered. This selfish and dishonest system perished under exposure, but it proved a tedious and unthankful labour to bring its abuses to the light of day." And though "soon after the Reform Act Ministers of State accepted salaries scarcely equal to the charges of office, sinecures and reversions were abolished, offices discontinued or consolidated, and the scale of official emoluments revised, and apportioned to the duties performed, throughout the public service. The change attested a higher sense of duty in Ministers and increased responsibility to public opinion." Now, Sir, anyone who expects to see similar results from our Reforms will not, I hope, be accused of rank extremism or sheer perversity.

However, I don't like to finish simply by examining the case for non-reduction. I would like to request the Councillors over here to take note of the public opinion outside this Chamber, and to think of the condition of the people whom we have come to represent here. The Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim has said: "It is no use drawing the analogies of other countries—look to the condition of Bengal." And what is our condition? Our child-mortality is increasing, our death-rate is going up above the birth-rate, our vitality is going down, our poverty is increasing and famines are not only not infrequent but not even a thing long past. Our agriculture is in the primitive undeveloped state and financial stringency stands in the way of the diffusion of even primary education.

At this stage the speaker, having exceeded the time-limit, had to resume his seat.

Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: It has been urged as a ground for reduction of Ministers' salaries—a reduction that can save the country utmost a lakh of rupees a year—it has been urged that the country is poor and cannot afford to pay high salaries—I maintain, Sir, that this country, I mean Bengal, is not poor at all. It is enormously wealthy compared with the wealth of its sister province as I will presently show, but the wealth is in the hands of a very

small minority, and the majority, who constitute the real people of Bengal, are miserably poor. As regards the wealth of Bengal, take any item—the land-revenue for instance—it produced nearly 2·80 crores of rupees in 1918-19. At a conservative estimate of five times, the landholders derive at least 14 crores of rupees as rent from land, and therefore the capital value of the landholders excluding revenue-free Sunderban lands, is, at the lowest estimate, 280 crores of rupees, *viz.*, twenty times the rental income. Take the income-tax as the next item Bengal paid, more strictly speaking the towns of Bengal paid, 1·54 crores of rupees in 1917-18, and a major portion of it is paid by 858 persons who enjoy incomes of over Rs. 25,000 a year. Taking one anna tax in the rupee-income, the incomes of assessees exceed 24 crores of rupees. Its capital value would therefore be at 20 times—480 crores of rupees. The owners of land and the merchants, the manufacturers and the money-lenders own therefore 760 crores of rupees of property or wealth in Bengal. Imagine, Sir, that only 2 per cent. and not even that, of a population of 45 millions in Bengal, own 760 crores of rupees, and the rest, mostly raiyats, wage-earners and petty traders who pay rent, interest and profit, are unusually poor. I don't mind even paying Rs. 10,000 a month to a Minister or an expert if he can help in the redistribution of this enormous wealth, so that the poor raiyats can secure better incomes from land, the hard-working and ill-paid labourers can get better wages by the sweat of their brows and the wage-earning *bhadralogs* better pay, and all of them be freed from the scourge of malaria and other diseases.

Babu SARAT CHANDRA MUKHOPADHAYA: In rising to address this House for the first time on a subject of very great importance, I am, I admit, fully conscious of being inadequately equipped with the necessary information. Not long ago the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education portfolio exposed in no unmistakeable terms the appalling deficit with which the approaching provincial budget estimates were to start. That astounding revelation was in itself enough to create the apprehension in the minds of the public that nothing short of fresh taxation would enable the exchequer to avoid a catastrophe and recover from the impending *impasse*. With that disheartening fact staring the province in the face it would be unpolitic, nay hardly judicious, if we elect to close our eyes and try to ignore the gravity of the situation by maintaining an attitude of indifference and abusing the privilege conferred upon us by the Joint Select Committee of voting the salaries of Ministers. The motions and the amendments dealing with the question of fixing the salaries of Ministers, with which the agenda paper is encumbered, because put forward with the best of intentions and with an eye to economy, should, I submit, receive the very careful and reasoned consideration of this House. If it is politic, if it is just, that we should cut our coat according to our cloth, then surely in the

present financial crisis, with which we are confronted, we are justified in asking the Ministers to be magnanimous enough to concede to the province the sacrifice which they can well afford to make. Now is the time when a penny saved is a pound gained. The present financial condition of Bengal, even if it may appear to have infinite capacity for improvement, does not warrant its debit side to be continually burdened while its credit side remains stationary. While, therefore, I have no hesitation in joining the ranks of those members, who stand for all-round economy and thrift, and give my hearty support to the motion for restricting within reasonable bounds the salary of our Ministers, I must confess I do not see my way to go so far as to recommend the whittling down of the salary of Ministers to some thing like a vanishing point—to what in fact may not only effect the dignity of their high office but may chill their enthusiasm. In the English constitution Ministers are servants of the Crown as well as the servants of the people. In our embryo constitution it is the Government that have appointed the Ministers, but it is for us, members of this Council, to guard against being carried away by the "breezes or the gales of a public opinion," which, in its enthusiasm for effecting economy, may lend itself to a policy that is devoid of a sense of proportion. On the other hand, we must guard against the policy of robbing Peter to pay Paul. What we should aim at is consistency—a uniform policy of retrenchments. It was only yesterday that this Council protested against and, by a significant majority, resolved upon the discontinuance of the expenditure annually incurred on the Darjeeling exodus. Are we not justified in recommending that the salary of the Ministers should be made to reach a point that may on the one hand effect an appreciable saving and, on the other be consistent with the dignity of their exalted office? Babu S. N. Ray has shown an example of self-sacrificing devotion, deserving of the highest encomium; but we would not go so far as to ask everyone to follow his example, for everyone may not be fortunate enough like him to afford it. But we implore our Ministers, all the same, to rise to the height of the occasion, to help Bengal to extricate itself from the slough, if not of despond, at least of a lamentable financial deficit. The golden mean would, I submit, be the fixing of their salary not on the standard of Japan or Canada, England or America, but at Rs. 3,000 a month or something above the salary of the Secretaries under them.

With these few words, I beg to commend this important question to the wisdom and good sense of this meeting.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I must say at the outset that this is not one of those resolutions which ought to have been placed in the agenda of the first meeting of the Reformed Council. It appears that some of my friends here thought that the Ministers were like so many burglars running away with the money from the pocket of the tax-payers. The hot haste with which this resolution has been moved shows that my

friends, the movers of the resolution and amendments thereto, have got no regard for the Ministers. They could certainly have waited till the budget time, and then we could have an opportunity of fixing the salaries of the Ministers. There was absolutely no occasion for bringing forward this resolution in such hot haste.

Then, there is another thing which I ought to say at the outset and it is this that I have very grave doubts whether the Government themselves could have fixed the salary of the Ministers.

My friend, Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, has said that he would fix the salary at £1,500: to that my answer is that that scale may be suitable for England and not for India, because here in India we have got the Secretaries who work under the Ministers getting each, at least a salary of Rs. 2,750 per month. Does my friend want to say that the Secretary of State for India draws a salary less than that of the Under-Secretary for State? But I must say that our Ministers, as popular leaders and as representatives of popular constituencies, ought to have come forward before the public in a self-sacrificing spirit and ought to have offered to accept the posts for a less remuneration than what the Government wants to give them. We all know that such a spirit of self-sacrifice prevails in England. We all know that Sir William Harcourt, who was the Chancellor of the Exchequer and also as Home Secretary during the administration of Mr. Gladstone for a period of nearly 20 years, and what was his pay—his pay was only £5,000 per annum. But what was his income before he served in those capacities—his income was £20,000 per annum; and he sacrificed this income for a period of 20 years. Perhaps, you all know what sacrifice Mr. Asquith has made. If he had wished he could have become the Lord Chancellor and could have drawn the handsome salary of £10,000 per annum. No doubt we heard a good deal about prestige and status in this House; but we also know that in England the Prime Minister appoints the Lord Chancellor and the former gets £5,000 a year, whereas the latter gets £10,000. The Prime Minister appoints the Judges of the High Courts, the Master of the Rolls and the Attorney-General; but the Prime Minister gets a pay less than each of these officials. For these reasons, I say, the question of status and prestige does not come in at all. I think that in a matter like this the Ministers ought to have set an example to the country.

Then, my learned friend and pupil, Professor Mukherji has said that we must begin by cutting the pay of the Governor and not the pay of the Ministers. To that, I say—let our public men show an example that they are willing to serve the country for a less amount, and then we can go to the Government and say that our countrymen are willing to serve for a less remuneration. Otherwise, we cannot go to them and ask them to use the pruning knife. He has also referred to a document—the report of the committee of non-official members of the last Bengal Legislative Council, which sat to consider the Reform Scheme—of which

I was a member. I suggested then that the pay of the Ministers should not be the same as that of the Members of the Legislative Council, and in fact I sent in a resolution recommending that the pay should be Rs. 2,500, but, as I was in a hopeless minority, I thought it prudent to submit to the voice of the majority. But things have changed since then. We have now got the report of the Joint Committee, dated the 17th November, 1919. My friend, Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri, has already quoted from that report. Well, there we find that the Indian members of the Council of the Secretary of State are given a larger salary than that of the European members, because it is a foreign service in the case of the Indians. So, here in India, we have to pay a larger amount to the European members. In fact the Joint Committee distinctly say: that the status of Ministers should be similar to that of the Members of the Executive Council, but that their salaries should be fixed by the Legislative Council. Later on, in this report, it is suggested that Indian members of the Council of India should be paid a higher scale of remuneration than those members of the Council domiciled in the United Kingdom. The same principle might suggest itself to the Legislative Council that it was reasonable for the Ministers of the Provincial Governments domiciled in India to be paid on a lower scale of remuneration than the European members.

That was their recommendation and it is for this reason that it was put down in the Government of India Act that the pay should be the same as that of the Members of the Executive Council, unless the Legislative Council of the province otherwise direct.

We are here to-day to consider the salaries of Ministers. If we consider that the pay ought to be less, I think we ought to reduce it. At least my own opinion is that the Ministers ought to come forward and tell us frankly that they are willing to accept a lower remuneration. I also deprecate the idea of extorting this concession at the point of the bayonet. But it is not also a good spirit on their part to remain obdurate in defiance of public opinion. We have got a duty to perform to our constituents, and with what face shall we go to our constituents if we do not represent their views in this room?

Mr. H. BARTON: I cannot help saying that I view this resolution with a sense of deep shame—a shame in which this Council will clothe itself if it permits this motion to be passed.

Sir, this is a question which ought to be approached with reasonableness, fairness and consistency. But I cannot say, having heard all the various movers, that any one of them has displayed any one of these qualities. We have heard a great deal of the poverty of the people. One speaker also referred to the Christian religion in connection with it. But I am sure no religion on the face of the earth has succeeded in warding off distress. We are told from time to time that charity begins at home. May I also point out that self-sacrifice also begins at

home. How many lawyers, may I ask, will take up the cases of poor men free of charge? How many landlords are prepared to sacrifice a portion of their houses for the poor? How many of the rice merchants will set aside a portion of their rice for the poor? How many cloth dealers are prepared to clothe the naked? Sir, the pay of the ordinary postmaster in a presidency town is Rs. 1,000, and is it unreasonable that our Ministers should be paid Rs. 5,000? Is that reasonable or fair and consistent with their responsibility? We find many men in subordinate positions in Government service getting a salary of Rs. 800 or Rs. 900 a month.

I take it that one of the objects which actuated the people of India in pressing for the Reforms now in operation was to bring into more prominence their own countrymen—to place them in a position that will bring to them the same prestige, dignity and consideration as have all along been accorded to the higher officials of Government.

Sir, His gracious Majesty the King-Emperor, mindful of the claims of his Indian subjects, thought them worthy of the presence of no less a person than his own royal son, the Prince of Wales, to inaugurate the Reformed Councils—an honour which cannot be too deeply appreciated, an honour equally well maintained by the Commission of his Royal uncle, the Duke of Connaught, a true friend of India, a son of our late much revered Queen-Empress of India, to whom the people of India owe so much. Sir, His Majesty's message on the inauguration of the Councils means above all that we should treat those appointed to the high offices of the Reformed Council consistently with the honour and dignity bestowed upon them.

The resolution produces before me a sad picture—standing side by side with the message of our gracious King, and to see the newly appointed Members of the Council sharing in the dignity and splendour of an innovation which should be the lasting pride of every son of India. What is the message that this picture conveys? Sir, it is a message that the power and the greatness you have sought for is yours in full measure, and there are your trusted representatives, who stand on the same platform with royalties. "Honour them as you will honour me," says the Royal message. But is this how we intend to serve those who are filling these high offices in response to our demands?

Yesterday by our verdict we rejected by a large majority the motion for reducing the number of Ministers. It was an eulogy on the hard and necessary duties that must devolve upon them. It was a generous verdict, which showed clearly the finding of the Council. As regards the present resolution, Sir, if those who opposed the reduction in the number of Ministers desire that their finding should be respected, they should throw away this resolution also. The mere thought of reducing the salary of the Ministers implies an aspersion on their deservedness and, in face of the verdict arrived at yesterday, it would be inconsistent, unreasonable and unjust and not altogether free from a certain amount

of personal element which should never find a place in our deliberatio For these reasons I oppose those resolutions. May I add that when y start cutting down the pay of the Ministers, you must in fairness c sider that in the end you will have to cut down the pay of other peop Is this Council working for a revolution or for progressive governmen I say therefore that we are approaching a very dangerous subject, a should do well to leave it alone and abide by the decision of His Exc lency the Governor in this respect.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY moved for a closure.

The motion was put and carried 75 voting for and 22 against.

The PRESIDENT then put the motions in the following order: –

Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: "That the question the salaries of the Ministers be adjourned for consideration till aft the presentation of the annual Budget."

The motion was put and lost.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the salaries of the Ministe be reduced to such an amount as may be decided by this Council aft considering the recommendation of a Committee consisting of the follo ing members:—

Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur,
Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri,
Dr. A. Suhrawardy,
Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur,
Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri,
Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M. Afzal,
Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur,
Mr. D. J. Cohen,
Babu Annada Charan Dutta,
Babu Nirode Behary Mullick and
The Mover."

The motion was put and lost.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the question of the reductic of the salaries of Ministers be referred to a Committee of nine membe to be elected by the Council, for report to the Council, the election be conducted on the basis of the single transferable vote and in t manner indicated at page 204 of the Council Manual."

The motion was put and lost.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: "That the salary a Minister be fixed at the amount of the salary of the Under-Secreta of State for India, *i.e.*, £1,500 a year."

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the salary of the Ministers be fixed at Rs. 1,000 a month."

The motion was put and lost.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: "That the salary of a Minister be fixed at Rs. 3,000 per month."

A division was taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Mesbah Uddin.
Ali, Maulvi Al H. M. Wazir.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Barton, Mr. H.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr. C. H.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Campbell, Mr. J.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cochran, Mr. A.
Das, Mr. S. R.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Forrester, Mr. G.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Lang, Mr. J.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Marr, Mr A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Morgan, Mr. C.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Poddar, Babu Keshoram.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Rae, Mr. W. R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Rhodes, Mr. C. W.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Mr. J. E.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilall Singh.
Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

NOES.

Afzal, Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Chaudhuri, Sir Ashutosh.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Janah, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Maitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahindra Chandra.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Niroda Behary.
Nakey, Sahibzada Mirza Muhammad Ali
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.

The Ayes being 66 and the Noes 37, the motion was lost.

Babu NIRODE BEHARY MULLICK: "That the salary of a Minister should be fixed at Rs. 3,500 per mensen."

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the salary of any of the Minsters do not exceed Rs. 2,500 per month."

The motion was put and lost.

Maulvi HAMID-UD-DIN KHAN: "That the salary of the Ministers be fixed at not above Rs. 3,000 per month."

The motion was put and lost.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: Before you adjourn the meeting I desire to make an announcement. There has been a very strong feeling in certain quarters in connection with the reduction of Ministers' pay. We are resolved not to accept any reduction of any kind in respect of our pay and that is the sense of this Council, but in deference to the sentiment to which I have referred, I desire to say on behalf of the Ministers that we have decided to take only Rs. 48,000 for our personal expenses and devote the rest to public purposes. (Applause).

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned to Monday, the 21st February, 1921, at 11 A.M., in the Town Hall, Calcutta.

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report of the First Session.)

VOLUME I—No. 3.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Monday, the 21st February, 1921, at 11 A.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 92 nominated and elected members.

President's Speech.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda: I regret to have to announce so early in the life of this Council the death of one of its members, Raja Narendra Lal Khan of Narajole. This melancholy event took place on Monday, the 14th of this month. The last public act of the Raja was to take the oath of allegiance to His Majesty the King-Emperor. He was a rich and powerful zamindar and represented the non-Muhammadan constituency of North Midnapore. I have no doubt that by his position and influence he would have been a source of strength to this Council and would have worthily represented his constituency here. We all mourn his loss, and I propose, with the permission of this Council, to convey to the members of the family of the deceased, through his son, an expression of our sympathy with them in their bereavement. I believe I have the permission.

Action will be taken as I have proposed.

There is one other matter to which I want to refer now. It has been represented to me that there are several members of this Council who are not acquainted with the English language or at least do not know English sufficiently well to transact their business with this Council in English. I had occasion to point out once before that under the rules the business of the Council must be conducted in English. An alteration in the rules is a matter of considerable difficulty, and will also involve a good deal of delay. The Government have, however, come forward to assist the members by getting notices of questions and resolutions translated by the Official Translator, and the Legislative Department will, when the translations are received, deal with

them. But it must be understood that the translations will be treated by this Department as the originals and will be dealt with on that footing; that is to say, the notices will be considered to have been received on the day the translations are received from the Translator. Members will also understand that in order to get the benefit of this concession they will not be allowed to question the accuracy of the translations.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Expenditure on reserved and transferred subjects.

***I. Babu SARAT CHANDRA MUKHOPADHAYA:** Will the h'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing separately the amounts actually spent during the years 1917-18, 1918-19, 1919-20 and during the first nine months of the year 1920-21, on subjects which are treated as "Reserved" and on those that have been transferred under the Government of India Act?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): The member is referred to the answer given to unstarred question No. 42 asked by Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 7th February, 1921.

Want of Government High School at Patuakhali.

***II. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a Government High English School in each subdivision of Bakarganj besides Patuakhali?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the subdivision of Patuakhali is chiefly inhabited by Muhammadans and that they are most backward in point of education?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to say whether the Government are considering the desirability of establishing a Government High English School at Patuakhali or of provincialising the existing Government High English School?

The DEPUTY SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (Mr. W. W. Hornell): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The high schools at Jhalakati, Pirojpur and Bhola were provincialised for special reasons. It is the policy of Government to establish a Government High School for boys at each district headquarters. Financial considerations preclude the possibility of extending this policy to subdivisional headquarters. In view of the fact that the Bakarganj

district already has four provincialised high schools, Government are not prepared to consider the question of establishing a fifth at Patuakhali.

Muhammadan graduates.

* **III. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state the number of Muhammadans who have graduated in the B.A. degree during the last seven years, from 1914 to 1920, year by year, from the Calcutta University?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): The member is referred to the calendars of the Calcutta University.

Muhammadan prisoners, their clothing and facilities to say their prayers.

* **IV. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Muhammadans form the major portion of the jail population in Bengal?

(*b*) What is the percentage of Muhammadan Jailors, Assistant Jailors and Warders in the jails of Bengal?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that according to *Shariat* (Muhammadan religion) it is incumbent on a Muhammadan to cover the lower part of his body, from the navel to the knee?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the short trousers supplied to the prisoners do not fulfil the purpose of *Shariat*?

(*e*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of directing that the Muhammadan prisoners are not to be dressed in any manner repulsive to the Muhammadan religion?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the prisoners are given facilities for performing their daily religious duties;

(*ii*) whether there is any arrangement in the jails to enable the prisoners to say their prayers according to religion; and

(*iii*) whether the jail officers have any instructions to give facilities to the prisoners to say their prayers?

* (*g*) If the answer to clause (*f*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of making arrangements in all jails to enable the prisoners to say their prayers and to see that orders are passed upon the jail to give facilities to the prisoners to say their prayers?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (*a*) Yes. Of the convicts admitted to jails in 1919, over 55 per cent. were Muhammadan.

(*b*) At present there is no Muhammadan Jailor; 26 per cent. of the Assistant Jailors and Probationers, 14 per cent. of Head Warders and 13 per cent. of Warders are Muhammadan.

(*c*) Yes, during prayers.

(*d*) The trousers supplied to prisoners do not cover the knee. While saying their prayers, Muhammadan prisoners generally use the *gamchas* issued to them to cover their knees.

(*e*) The question of issuing longer trousers to prisoners is being considered.

(*f*) (*i*) (*ii*) and (*iii*) Yes, under rule 670 of the Jail Code. The question of affording further facilities to prisoners for the performance of religious duties is under consideration.

(*g*) This does not arise.

Circulation of Mr. Biss's report on primary education.

*V. **Mr. SYED ERFAN ALI:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is the intention of the Government to circulate the report of Mr. Biss regarding primary education in Bengal to local bodies and public associations for their opinion?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: Mr. Biss's report is not yet available. When it is available, district boards and municipalities and public associations will be consulted.

Motor-car accidents in the streets of Calcutta.

*VI. **Mr. SYED ERFAN ALI:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department been drawn to the fact that motor car accidents in the streets of Calcutta are on the increase?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of such accidents in 1920, 1919 and 1918, and

(*ii*) the number of arrests for rash and negligent driving during the same period?

(*c*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member been drawn to the observation of the Commissioner of the Calcutta Police in his last Administration Report that "most of the cases of rash and negligent driving of motor cars placed before the courts were acquitted on legal technicalities as opposed to facts, and then in the small number of cases convicted, sentences awarded were ludicrously inadequate and the value of human life was written down to a minimum"?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether any remedial measures are under consideration?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an injured person is first taken to a thana and then to a hospital, instead of being immediately removed to a hospital?

(*f*) Is it a fact that neither the police nor the hospital authorities take any steps to inform the relatives of the injured person of the occurrence of the accident?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The statistics kept relate to—

(*i*) Persons killed or injured, not to accidents. The figures are as follows:—

	Injured.	Killed	Total
1918	561	42	603
1919	656	58	714
1920	1,291	105	1,396

(*ii*) Cases of rash and negligent driving—

	On arrest	On summons	Total
1918	325	127	452
1919	313	127	440
1920	225	272	497

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The question of increasing the staff of the Public Vehicles Department is under consideration. Government have appointed a committee, which is now sitting under the presidency of Mr. C. F. Beadel, to examine the existing regulations and control and to make recommendations as to the regulations and the degree and manner of control that should be exercised in future. The proposal to appoint a stipendiary magistrate to try all traffic offences is also under examination.

(*e*) and (*f*) Injured persons are generally removed by the police direct to hospital. The relatives of injured persons are informed by the police. The Commissioner of Police issued a circular order in December last, reminding the police of their duty in this respect.

Silting of the mouth of the Bhairab river.

***VII. Mr. SYED ERFAN ALI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state what steps have been taken to remove the silt at the mouth of the Bhairab river in order to make this and other rivers connected with it, navigable?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the papers and maps in connection with the scheme?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) Nothing has been undertaken by the Irrigation Department to reopen the old mouth of the Bhairab river.

(*b*) No scheme for reopening the old mouth has been prepared by the Irrigation Department.

Calcutta Medical College, Presidency General and Campbell Hospitals.

* **VIII. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) the total number of beds maintained in the Calcutta Medical College and the Presidency General and Campbell Hospitals, respectively;

(*ii*) the total number of indoor patients who were treated in the said three hospitals in the year 1919-20, stating separately the nationalities of such patients;

(*iii*) the cost of upkeep and maintenance of the said three hospitals in the year 1919-20;

(*iv*) whether it is a fact that Indians are not allowed in the Presidency General Hospital, even in emergency cases, while other Asiatics are treated there as ordinary patients; and

(*v*) what are the scales of diet provided for patients of different nationalities in the Calcutta Medical College Hospital, the Presidency General Hospital and the Campbell Hospital, Calcutta, respectively?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): (*i*), (*ii*), (*iii*) and (*iv*) A statement is laid on the table. Statistics are kept by the calendar year, and those for the year 1920 are not yet available.

(*iv*) The Presidency General Hospital is intended for the treatment of Europeans, but other cases may be admitted under the order of the Superintendent, if of extreme urgency.

Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. VIII, giving particulars regarding the Presidency General, Medical College and Campbell Hospitals in 1919.

Hospitals.	Number of beds.	INDOOR PATIENTS *					Cost of upkeep and maintenance (excluding cost of buildings).	Scale of diet daily per head.		REMARKS The receipts from paying patients were:—
		European or Anglo Indians	Hindus	Mahammadans.	Others	Total.			Rs. A.	
							Rs.			Rs.
Presidency General.	235	3,021	..	...	610	3,631	3,43,606	Ward patients. Paying ,,	1 4 2 8	1,02,914
Medical College.	616	2,356	5,202	1,256	783	9,597	5,77,255	European. Indian...	1 0 0 8	28,044
Campbell ...	630	261	9,127	2,103	382	11,873	2,33,617	Indoor	0 7	1,164

* Among "Others" various nationalities are included, *e.g.*, Chinese, Parsees, Turks, Armenians, Japanese, Siamese and Philipinos.

Admission into the Calcutta Medical College.

*IX. **Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the admissions of students in the Calcutta Medical College in the last session were made upon the basis of the University qualification of the applicants;

(*ii*) the total number of applicants for admission to the Calcutta Medical College in the last session, showing how many of them were graduates and how many undergraduates; and

(*iii*) the total number of graduates and undergraduates who obtained such admissions?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*i*) Yes, for the most part, but some admissions were made in view of other considerations, viz., the distribution of vacancies among different districts, special recommendations and the claims of dependents of the Assistant Surgeons and graduates of the College.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) The member is referred to the statements laid on the table in reply to unstarred question No. 13 at the meeting of the Council held on 7th February, 1921.

Road-cess and Government revenue.

*X. **Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue be pleased to state what were the total amounts collected on account of road-cess and Government revenue during each of the last five years, showing such receipts under the above heads separately for each district in Bengal?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): A statement showing the total amounts collected on account of road-cess during each of the years 1915-16 to 1919-20, for each district in Bengal, is laid on the table.

As regards the amounts collected on account of land revenue, the member is referred to column 9 of Appendix I of the Board's Land Revenue Administration Report for those years.

Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. X, showing the road cess receipts from 1915-16 to 1919-20.

NAME OF DISTRICT.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.
Burdwan ..	3,52,857	4,09,066	3,98,254	3,83,779	4,05,652
Birbhum ...	82,763	76,502	79,568	79,598	79,603
Bankura ...	47,004	50,065	50,308	47,046	55,484
Midnapore ...	2,18,832	2,05,890	2,27,363	2,28,216	2,33,460
Hooghly ...	1,19,706	1,12,856	1,12,172	1,14,657	1,13,836
24-Parganas ...	2,41,505	2,31,351	2,23,696	2,41,376	2,27,896
Nadia ...	96,331	1,06,382	97,335	98,261	93,313
Murshidabad ...	91,011	86,991	85,586	91,316	87,667
Jessore ...	1,18,945	1,13,340	1,10,455	1,09,820	1,20,863
Khulna ...	1,18,924	1,24,949	1,25,409	1,35,334	1,29,170
Dacca ...	1,28,028	1,36,551	1,56,444	1,59,679	1,71,532
Mymensingh ...	2,56,950	2,48,556	2,58,951	2,47,068	2,60,210
Faridpur ...	1,21,096	1,24,946	1,18,586	1,17,587	1,17,934
Bakarganj ...	2,28,635	2,33,991	2,26,717	2,54,999	2,29,521
Chittagong ...	1,21,814	1,24,908	1,20,781	1,25,895	1,28,116
Tippera ...	1,38,005	1,64,614	1,43,712	1,43,584	1,60,470
Noakhali ...	1,05,439	1,12,361	97,748	99,679	1,30,370
Rajshahi ...	1,06,831	1,05,106	1,08,140	1,35,828	1,80,098
Dinajpur ...	1,17,868	1,23,797	1,17,181	1,18,448	1,25,894
Jalpaiguri ...	1,10,292	1,15,734	1,15,526	1,19,662	1,06,136
Rangpur ...	1,92,360	1,89,323	1,75,543	1,65,462	2,03,464
Bogra ...	69,065	65,709	64,884	62,870	69,579
Pabna ...	80,946	83,323	76,243	80,484	83,292
Malda ...	57,505	54,656	59,425	59,775	57,873
Darjeeling ...	28,265	27,820	28,312	30,543	30,681
Total ...	33,50,977	34,29,687	33,78,339	34,50,966	36,02,114

Question of the abolition of the Board of Revenue.

* **XI. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue be pleased to state whether there have been any proposals before the Government within the last fifteen years for the abolition of the Board of Revenue?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether any Committee was ever appointed for considering the question of such abolition?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the Committee referred to in (*b*) submitted any report and, if so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the said report?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the report of the Committee referred to in (*c*) was or was not acted upon, and, if not, why not?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of appeals and petitions to the Board of Revenue during the last fifteen years and their results?

(*f*) Are the Government considering the desirability of reconsidering their decision upon the said report or of appointing afresh a small committee from among the members of the Bengal Legislative Council to finally consider the question of the abolition of the Board of Revenue?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) and (*d*) The questions do not arise.

(*e*) It will take some time to collect the information wanted, as reference will be necessary to the actual records of the cases. A statement will be laid on the table when the necessary information has been collected.

(*f*) No. The Secretary of State for India has recently decided that the Board of Revenue shall not be abolished.

Differential treatment of clerks in different Khas Mahals in Jalpaiguri.

* **XII. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Land Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the *Khas Mahal* clerks at the Maynaguri and Falakata *tahsils*, in the district of Jalpaiguri, are not allowed either local allowance or travelling allowance?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the *Khas Mahal* clerks at Alipur and Kumargram *tahsils* get such allowances?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for the distinction between the clerks at Maynaguri and Falakata on the one hand and those at Alipur and Kumargram on the other?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that prices have gone up abnormally high during the last few years?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble the Member also aware of the complaint that is made that the pay of the officers at Maynaguri and Falakata is not sufficient both to maintain them with their families and to meet their expenses of travelling throughout the area of 300 square miles within their jurisdiction?

(*f*) Is is a fact that the *Khas Mahal tahsildars* in the Dooars receive Rs. 50 each for travelling and local allowance and the Police Sub-Inspectors, Post Masters, School Sub-Inspectors receive 25 per cent. as Dooars allowance?

(*g*) Are the Government considering the desirability of granting to the said *Khas Mahal* clerks at Maynaguri and Falakata such travelling allowance as is paid to their brother officers at Alipur and Kumargram?

* **The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*a*) *Khas Mahal* clerks at the Maynaguri and Falakata *tahsils* in the Jalpaiguri district do not get any local allowance. They are, however, allowed travelling allowance for journeys by rail performed in the discharge of their duties.

(*b*) *Khas Mahal* clerks at Alipur and Bhalka get local allowance at the rate of 40 per cent. of their pay. They also receive travelling allowance for rail journeys only.

(*c*) The distinction in the matter of local allowance is due to the fact that Maynaguri and Falakata *tahsils* being not so unhealthy and out of the way as Alipur and Bhalka stand on a different footing.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) A representation from the ministerial staff of the Maynaguri and Falakata *tahsils* was received by the Board of Revenue through the local officers in November, 1918, but no mention was made in it about travelling expenses. The pay of the *Khas Tahsil* establishment in the Jalpaiguri district has since been revised.

(*f*) The *Khas Mahal tahsildars* in the Dooars receive (compensatory) allowance of Rs. 50 and a conveyance allowance of Rs. 20 a month. Sub-Inspectors of Police and Sub-Inspectors of Schools get local allowance at the rate of 25 per cent. of their pay. No information is available about Post Masters.

(*g*) In view of the replies to questions (*a*) and (*b*) above, this requires no answer.

Expenditure on "Transferred Subjects."

* **XIII. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to lay on table a statement showing the cost of administration, during The years 1917-18, 1918-19, 1919-20, of the subjects now known as "Transferred Subjects"?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: The member is refereed to the answer given to unstarred question No. 42 asked by Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 7th February, 1921.

Pay and qualifications of medical officers posted at subdivisional headquarters.

* **XIV. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be

pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of the medical officers posted at each of the subdivisional headquarters in the Presidency of Bengal and their medical qualifications, experience and pay?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: A statement is laid on the library table.

Demand for admission into the 1st year class of the Calcutta Medical College.

*** XV. * Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a great demand for admission into the 1st year class of the Calcutta Medical College?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that such demand cannot be met by the existing accommodation?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of opening another section of 150 students in the 1st year class with effect from the coming session?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) and (*b*) The answer is in the affirmative

(*c*) The answer is in the negative There are already 1,159 students under training and the existing accommodation is fully utilized.

Increased expenditure on account of certain grants and increments to the Indian Civil Service, the Provincial Service and the Subordinate Executive Service.

*** XVI. Maulvi ABDUL KARIM:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the total amount of increased expenditure incurred by the increased grant of overseas allowances to the members of the Indian Civil Service employed in Bengal;

(*ii*) the total amount of increased expenditure incurred by the increment recently given to the members of the Provincial Judicial Service;

(*iii*) the total amount of increased expenditure incurred by the increment given to the members of the Provincial Executive Service; and

(*iv*) the total amount of increased expenditure which is likely to be incurred by the proposed increment to be given to the members of the Subordinate Executive Service?

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): (*i*) There has been no general

increased grant of overseas allowance to the members of the Indian Civil Service. The previous system of grades has been abolished and a time-scale substituted for it. Instead of grade pay the total emoluments of an officer now consist of a time-scale pay *plus* an overseas allowance. In some cases this amounts to less than was being drawn before, but in these cases the officer has been protected from immediate loss by a personal allowance. The increased cost of the new system, including the cost of these personal allowances, at the end of 1919 was approximately Rs 12,500 a month in Bengal. In the current year, 1920-21, the figure is estimated to be nearly Rs. 29,000 a month; the increase is due to the fact that the personal allowances have not been absorbed, and retirements have been few, while all members of the Service have earned further yearly increments

(*ii*) The total amount of increased expenditure on the 1st December, 1919, due to the increment given to members of the Provincial Judicial Service is approximately Rs. 60,000 per mensem.

(*iii*) The corresponding figure for the Executive Service is Rs. 46,000 per mensem

(*iv*) As orders have not yet been received on the revision of pay of the Subordinate Executive Service, no information can be given.

Percentage of Muhammadans in the posts of deputy magistrates, sub-deputy collectors and sub-registrars.

* **XVII. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state the number of deputy-magistrates, sub-deputy collectors and sub-registrars appointed from different communities of Bengal (separately) during the last 5 years from 1916 to 1920?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the policy of Government in appointing those officers from the different communities of Bengal?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the percentage of Muhammadan deputy-magistrates, sub-deputy collectors and sub-registrars in Bengal?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) A statement giving the information required is laid on the table.

(*b*) In recruiting deputy and sub-deputy collectors the general policy has been to reserve at least one-third of the direct appointments to Muhammadans. In the case of sub-registrars, the aim has been to secure a proportion of 43 per cent. of Muhammadans in the service as a whole.

(*c*) The present percentage of Muhammadans among deputy collectors is 22, among sub-deputy collectors 28, and among sub-registrars 43.

Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. XVII.

YEAR	DEPUTY COLLECTORS. NUMBER RECRUITED. Direct.		By promotion.		SUB-DEPUTY COLLECTORS. NUMBER RECRUITED. Direct		By promotion		SUB-REGISTRARS. NUMBER RECRUITED.	
	Non-Muhammadans.	Muhammadans.	Non-Muhammadans	Muhammadans.	Non-Muhammadans	Muhammadans	Non-Muhammadans	Muhammadans	Non-Muhammadans	Muhammadans.
1916 ...	4	3	2	1	3	3	2	Nil	14	10
1917 ...	4	3	3	Nil	3	3	2	Nil	11	9
1918 ...	6	2	4	Nil	9	5	1	1	13	13
1919 ...	7	3	3	1	36	17	17	5	9	17
1920 ...	7	3	4	Nil	36	18	5	2	8	12

Facilities to Muhammadan officers and litigants for "Juma" prayers.

* **XVIII. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department aware that there is a Government circular requiring facilities to be given to the Muhammadan officers and litigants to say their *Juma* prayers on Friday?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the circular is not always strictly observed by the officers in authority, and the Muhammadan ministerial officers and litigants do not always find it safe to incur displeasure of the authorities in asking permission to go to say their *Juma* prayer as it hampers speedy disposal of cases?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of passing orders to suspend all work in the Courts of Bengal for one hour and a half, from 12-30 to 2 P.M. on Fridays, to give effect to the circular and to enable the officers and litigants to say their prayers with ease and content?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that there is a sect of Muhammadans in Bengal who do not say their *Juma* prayers on the ground that the British Government is not the protector of the Muhammadan faith in India?

(*e*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of taking such steps as may be necessary to remove their idea and especially of passing orders upon their officers to give every facility to the Muhammadan officers, litigants and prisoners, to say their prayers at fixed appointed times of the day?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): (*a*) Yes. The circular issued in 1912.

(*b*) In 1917 Government issued a circular inviting the attention of all heads of offices to interpret the orders of 1912 in a liberal spirit.

Since then no complaint about the disregard of the orders has reached Government. The Government will make inquiries if there has been a failure to observe the instructions laid down in the circular and take such further steps as may be called for.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The Government have no such information.

(*e*) It is the established and well-known policy of the Government not to interefere in any way with the religious liberty of the people of India and the Government are not aware that any misapprehension exists in this point.

In regard to the suggestion in the latter portion of this clause of the question the member is referred to the reply to (*b*) above and to clause (*f*) of his starred question No. IV.

School text-book and remarks therein objectionable to Muhammadans.

*XIX. **Mr. SYED ERFAN ALI:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education been drawn to a school text-book named "The Story of England," by Rev. Edgar Sanderson, in which the author has made certain remarks which are objectionable to Muhammadans?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are taking any steps to have the book omitted from the list of text-books approved for use in schools?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Now that the attention of Government has been invited to the book, the question whether the book should be retained on the list will be considered.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Technical and industrial education.

1. **Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether the Government have formulated any programme of technical and industrial education?

(*b*) If so, to what extent has that programme been given effect to and what steps have been taken to carry it out?

(*c*) Have the Government applied for any, and, if so, what grants from the Government of India, out of the sums that the Government of India offered for distribution to the local Governments during the last three years for agricultural and technical education?

(*d*) What grants have the local Government actually received, and how have the same been applied?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) and (*b*) The member is referred to the reply given to the unstarred question No. 5 asked by Babu Amulya Dhone Addy on 7th February, 1921.

(*c*) and (*d*) The table below shows the grants applied for and those received. The grants are being utilized for the purposes for which they were given:—

YEAR.	Amount of grants applied for.	Amount received.	Purpose for which utilised.
	Rs.	Rs.	
1918 ...	1,80,000 (non-recurring)	1,80,000	Agricultural Vernacular Schools at Dacca and Chinsura
1919 ...	(1) 75,000 (non-recurring).	75,000	Agricultural Institute at Dacca
	(2) 1,50,000 (non-recurring)	Nil	Acquisition of a new site for Serampore Weaving Institute
	(3) 11,728 (recurring)	10,000	Improvement of evening classes at mining centres.
1920 ...	(1) 1,02,500 (non-recurring).	1,02,500	Agricultural Institute at Dacca.
	(2) 40,000 (non-recurring).	20,000	Improvement of the Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur
	(3) 25,000 (non-recurring).	15,000	Improvement of the Ashaullah School of Engineering at Dacca.
	(4) Information not available, the papers having been destroyed by the recent fire.	3,00,000 (non-recurring).	Technical School in Calcutta.

Revision of the pay of ministerial and menial establishments

2. Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether the Committee appointed by the Government of Bengal, Finance Department, Resolution No. 2934 T.—F., dated the 2nd November, 1920, to advise as to the revision of the pay of ministerial and menial establishments has received any instructions from Government regarding its duties in addition to what is contained in the resolution and, if so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay a copy of such instructions on the table?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state by what *per cent.* the cost of living in Bengal has gone up since pre-war days according to statistics supplied by the Director of Statistics and give the *data* on which the percentage is calculated?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state by what *per cent.* the cost of feeding and clothing prisoners in Bengal and providing for their medical and sanitary needs has gone up since pre-war days?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: (*a*) No further instructions have been given to the Committee, beyond what is contained in the resolution.

(*b*) The cost of living index is under consideration and has not been settled yet. As regards the wholesale and retail prices of different articles, a copy of a Press note, dated the 15th November, 1919, issued by the Director of Statistics, is laid on the library table.

The percentage rise in retail prices of the undermentioned groups of articles in Calcutta during November and December 1920, as compared with July 1914 (just before the outbreak of war), is as follows:—

	November 1920 Per cent	December 1920. Per cent.
Cereals	+ 46	+ 37
Pulses	+ 52	+ 52
Other articles of food	+ 59	+ 57
Fuel and lighting	+ 137	+ 126
Clothing	+ 194	+ 185

The rise in prices in rice in December 1920 is 28 per cent., as compared with 43 per cent. in November 1920. Since August last retail prices in Calcutta have shown a tendency to fall.

(*c*) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 2[illegible], showing the percentage of increase of maintenance charges of prisoners from 1914 to 1919.

[The increase in each case is [illegible] the average cost for 1909—1913.]

—	1909. Average cost per head.	1910. Average cost per head.	1911. Average cost per head.	1912. Average cost per head.	1913. Average cost per head.	Average cost per head during the years 1909—1913.	1914. Average cost per head.	Increase per cent over the average for 1909—1913.	1915. Average cost per head.	Increase per cent over the average for 1909—1913.	1916. Average cost per head.	Increase per cent over the average for 1909—1913.	1917. Average cost per head.	Increase per cent over the average for 1909—1913.	1918. Average cost per head.	Increase per cent over the average for 1909—1913.	1919. Average cost per head.	Increase per cent over the average for 1909—1913.
	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.		Rs. A.		Rs. A.		Rs. A.		Rs. A.		Rs. A.	
Dieting charges	[illegible] 53 15	42 6	[illegible] 7	55 11	41 7	41 9	44 15	[illegible]	47 7	14·1	45 5	15·2	47 5	[illegible]	44 7	[illegible]	[illegible]	45·5
Hospital charges	[illegible] 6 3	7 4	5 3	8 [illegible]	6 13	6 4[illegible]	7 [illegible]	11·3	7 10	2·2	7 11	22·2	7 10	21·2	9 [illegible]	43·1	9 14	57·55
Clothing charges	[illegible] 6 6	[illegible]	4 5	4 2	4 2	4 15[illegible]	6 [illegible]	20·7	6 9	20·7	6 9	31·2	5 10	13	11 4	125·2	11 1	122·3
Sanitation charges	2 9	2 5	2 [illegible]	2 3	2 [illegible]	2 4[illegible]	2 13	14·7	2 4	—1·2	2 12	2·2	2 6	12	4 5	[illegible]	4 8	91·2
Total	[illegible] 9	[illegible] 7	48 13	45 7	43 12	45 [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	63 5	14·8	65 5	[illegible]	63 2	14·5	69 [illegible]	52·1	[illegible]	[illegible]

Grants to primary schools.

3. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state at what rate monthly grants are made to primary schools in Bengal?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the rate of these grants is Re. 1 or Re. 1-8 only?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether, as a matter of fact, this rate has proved attractive for trained teachers of the better type?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of making an inquiry into the matter with a view to taking such steps as may be necessary to improve the prospects of the teachers of primary schools?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the scale of pay of this class of teachers in the United Provinces is higher than that of Bengal, and that the United Provinces Government have sanctioned a further increment in their pay on the following scale, viz.:—

(*i*) students in training, Rs. 10 as a minimum

(*ii*) untrained teachers, Rs. 12 as a minimum;

(*iii*) trained assistants, increase of 50 per cent. on Rs. 15 per month, 30 per cent. on Rs. 17 per month, 20 per cent. on Rs. 20 per month; for head teachers of primary schools, 50 per cent increase on Rs. 20 per month, 30 per cent. increase on Rs. 25 per month and 20 per cent. on Rs. 30 per month?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) Monthly grants to primary schools in Bengal are made on rates ranging from Rs. 2 to Rs. 14 per mensem.

(*b*) The minimum rate of grant in an aided primary school in Bengal is Rs. 2 and not Re. 1 or Re. 1-8 per mensem.

(*c*) Trained teachers in primary schools get Rs. 6 from the Imperial grants in addition to what they receive from the District Boards. Owing to the prevailing economic conditions the existing rates are not sufficiently attractive.

(*d*) A detailed inquiry into the whole question of expansion and improvement of primary education is being made by a special officer deputed by Government for the purpose. One of the most important questions involved in this inquiry is that of improving the prospects of teachers in primary schools.

(*e*) Government are aware of the circular issued by the Government of the United Provinces sanctioning certain increments in the pay of primary school teachers. The United Provinces are under the Reforms Scheme in a much more fortunate financial position than Bengal is.

Steam launches of the Commissioner and the Collector of Dacca.

4. **Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue be pleased to state the number of days on which the Commissioner of the Dacca Division and the Collector of Dacca used their respective steam launches in each of the last two calendar years?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The Commissioner and the Collector used their launches in 1919 for 63 days each and in 1920 for 87 days and 43 days, respectively. Other officers used the Commissioner's launch for 22 and 24 days in 1919 and 1920, respectively, and the Collector's launch for 35 and 20 days, respectively.

Pay and prospects of the Subordinate Educational Service.

5. **Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware that great discontent prevails among the members of the Subordinate Educational Service, Bengal, in the matter of their pay and prospects?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state when the recommendations of the Committee appointed to inquire into the grievances of the Subordinate Educational Service will be submitted?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The report was received on the 9th instant and is now under consideration.

Office of Sanitary (Malaria) Drainage Division.

6. **Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state the details of work to be undertaken by the newly created office of Sanitary (Malaria) Drainage Division and the amount of grant sanctioned for the purpose?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The newly created Sanitary Drainage Division has for the present been put in charge of the following schemes:—

(1) Arul Bil	Works in progress.
(2) Jaboona Project (Sections I and II)	
(3) Anta Project	
(4) Nowi-Sunthi Project	

(5) Baitgachi Gong Project	...	Projects under survey and investigation.
(6) Harihar-Mukteswari Project	...	
(7) Bhairab Project ...	...	
(8) Kodla-Betna Scheme ...	...	
(9) Jhenida-basin Project	...	

As regards grants sanctioned for the purpose, perhaps the member wishes to know total amount of expenditure involved. The total estimated amount of the works in progress, viz., items 1 to 4, is Rs 36,13,000 The corresponding figures for projects under survey and investigation are not known at present.

Opening of a central dairy farm.

7. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether the Government are contemplating opening a central dairy farm in the Jessore district or any other place?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: Government have no such scheme in contemplation at present. The member is referred to the discussion on the resolution moved by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, M.L.C., at the meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council held on the 13th March, 1919, suggesting that at least three model dairies be started at suitable centres in the mufassal.

Normal schools.

8. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the existing normal schools in Bengal will be abolished from the next year?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: No. The question of the reorganisation and improvement of the normal schools is now before Government

Staff selection board for Bengal.

9. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state whether the Government contemplate creating a staff selection Board for Bengal on the lines of the board constituted by the Government of India?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: The answer is in the negative.

Tramway strike.

10. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce aware of the strike of the Tramway employees in Calcutta?

(*b*) Are the Government taking any steps to settle the strike by arbitration?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: (*a*) and (*b*) The member is referred to the answer given to unstarred question No. 21.

Subordinate officers of the Jail Department.

11. Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that the initial pay of probationary Assistant Jailors has been raised from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 and that of Jailors from Rs. 100 to Rs. 125;

(*ii*) that the pay of Assistant Jailors has not been raised at all;

(*iii*) whether it is a fact that the salary of the probationary Sub-Inspectors of Police has been raised from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50, that of the Sub-Inspectors from Rs. 50 to Rs. 80, and that Inspectors of Police get Rs. 150 to start with,

(*iv*) whether it is a fact that Sub-Inspectors of Police are allowed to count towards increment their past services, including probationary and substantive *pro tempore* appointments, as laid down in the Civil Service Regulations, and that in the case of Jailors and Assistant Jailors they have been ordered to count increments from date of confirmation of their respective appointments?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for this differentiation between these two classes of officers in the matter of initial pay and also the date of accrual of increments?

(*c*) Is it a fact that a memorial asking for the reconsideration of the orders passed was submitted by the subordinate officers of the Jail Department to the Inspector-General of Prisons? If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what were the orders passed thereon?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Before revision, the cadre of Assistant Jailors was divided into five grades on Rs. 50, Rs. 55, Rs. 60, Rs. 65 and Rs. 70 per mensem, and there was a grade of Deputy Jailors on Rs. 80. The grade of Deputy

Jailors has been abolished and the pay of the Assistant Jailors has been fixed at Rs. 50—10/2—100. The prospects of the Assistant Jailors have thus been improved.

(*iii*) Yes, except that the pay of the probationary Sub-Inspectors of Police has been raised to Rs. 50 from Rs. 25 and not from Rs. 30, as stated in the question.

(*iv*) As a general principle the provisions of articles 156-58 of the Civil Service Regulations have been relaxed in all cases where a time-scale is introduced. The Sub-Inspectors of Police, as well as the Jailors and Assistant Jailors, have accordingly been allowed to count their past services towards increment in the new time-scales. No proposal has been received by Government for permitting them to count their probationary and substantive *pro tempore* appointments towards increment.

(*b*) The question of the differentiation between the subordinate police and jail officers in the matter of the date of accrual of increments does not arise. Proposals regarding the initial pay of the two classes of officers were considered on their merits separately and at different times.

(*c*) Yes. The memorialists were informed by the Inspector General of Prisons that in view of the recent improvements effected in their pay and prospects, he was not disposed to recommend their case to Government.

Means of communication in the Manikganj and Munshiganj subdivisions.

12. Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works been drawn to the deplorable condition of the means of communication in the district of Dacca, especially in the Manikganj and Munshiganj subdivisions?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the amount annually collected from the district as road cess and the amounts actually spent during the last ten years in constructing and maintaining roads in the two subdivisions, respectively?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) The Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Public Works is aware of the means of communication in the Manikganj and Munshiganj subdivisions of the Dacca district. The member is referred to the answer given to starred question No. XXIV on this subject at a meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council held on the 14th August, 1920.

(*b*) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 12 (b), showing the road cess collected in the district of Dacca and the amounts spent by the Dacca District Board in constructing and maintaining roads in the Munshiganj and Manikganj subdivisions during the last 10 years.

Year	Road cess.	Munshiganj subdivision			Manikganj subdivision		
		New works	Repairs.	Total.	New works	Repairs	Total.
	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs.
1910-11 .. .	1,12,348	1,841	9,367	11,208	15,477	17,796	33,273
1911-12	1,12,248	969	11688	12,657	11,386	6,665	18,051
1912-13	1,15,886	1,195	8,854	10,049	3,251	8,439	11,690
1913-14	1,19,384	17,925	7,561	25,486	4,170	7,609	11,779
1914-15	1,50,039	9,303	9,392	18,695	6,332	7,691	14,023
1915-16 ..	1,18,526	12,635	17,777	30,412	4,654	13,266	17,920
1916-17 ..	1,22,150	641	6,020	6,661	14,082	8,631	22,713
1917-18 .. .	1,30,856	1,782	9,149	10,931	3,791	7,053	10,844
1918-19 .	1,49,619	2,440	12,404	14,844	5,619	7,540	13,159
1919-20	1,51,381	861	8,633	9,494	2,376	7,787	10,163
Total	12,62,437	49,492	1,00,805	1,50,297	71,156	92,657	1,63,813

Primary education.

13. Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state the number of primary schools in Bengal and the number of students in the said schools?

(*b*) Is not the number of students in these schools too small, having regard to the population?

(*c*) If so, what steps are being taken to popularise primary education?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Mr. Biss, an officer of the Indian Educational Service, has been placed on special duty to advise Government with regard to this matter. For a general consideration of the subject the member is referred to the annual reports of the Director of Public Instruction.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 13 (a).

Number of primary schools in Bengal ...	46,240
Number of pupils in them .	1,409,814
Besides this there are pupils in the primary stages of secondary schools	188,926
Totals pupils in primary stage .	1,598,740

Charitable dispensaries.

14. Babu JOCENDRA NATH ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the actual number of charitable dispensaries in Bengal?

(*b*) What steps have been taken to establish a larger number of such dispensaries for the convenience of the public?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The number of charitable hospitals and dispensaries on 30th November, 1920, was 712, *viz.* 21 in Calcutta and 691 outside Calcutta.

In addition to 712 charitable hospitals and dispensaries, there are 84 institutions for the relief of suffering which do not technically come under the head of "Charitable Dispensary."

(*b*) In this Government circular No. 271-75 T.—Medl*., dated the 18th September, 1917, of which a copy is laid on the library table, district boards were reminded of their responsibilities and urged to make an earnest endeavour to establish new dispensaries in areas standing in need of medical relief. The number of district charitable hospitals and dispensaries rose from 604 in 1917 to 677 in 1919, and since then there has been a further increase to 691.

Opening of civil courts in Gopalganj subdivision.

15. Babu BHISHMADEV DAS: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state within what time the opening of the civil courts at Gopalganj subdivision (Faridpur) may be expected?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: The member presumably refers to the opening of the proposed munsifi at Gopalganj. The plan and estimates for the necessary buildings have not yet been received. The munsifi at Gopalganj will be opened when the plan and estimates are received and funds are available. It is not possible at present to mention a definite date.

* Not printed in these Proceedings

Hostels for students of depressed classes.

16. Babu BHISHMADEV DAS: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware that hostels for the backward (depressed) classes have been opened by Government at two centres of education, namely, at Dacca and Calcutta?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that there is a great demand for such hostels at other centres of education, namely, at Daulatpur, Jessore, Gopalganj, Bagerhat, Mary Gopinathpur, Bhanga and Faridpur?

(*c*) What steps are the Government taking to meet the demand?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) Yes. There is also a hostel for Rajbansis at Rangpur.

(*b*) The alleged demand has not yet been brought to my notice.

(*c*) The Education Department will consider sympathetically any proposals put before them. But the meeting of this as of many other needs depends primarily upon funds being available.

Proposed tank at Feni.

17. Babu RASIK CHANDRA CHARMAKAR: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government been drawn to the several memorials submitted to His Excellency the Governor of Bengal by the people of Feni town, protesting against the proposed excavation of a tank at the heart of the town?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of selecting a site for the proposed tank near the Godown quarter?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) Four petitions have been received and have been sent to the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division for disposal.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

Produce of jute, cotton, rice and oil-seeds and their exports.

18. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the quantity of jute, cotton, rice and oil-seeds produced in Bengal and the quantity exported during the last five years?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 18.

(*a*) Showing the quantity of jute, cotton, rice and oil-seeds produced in Bengal during the last five years.

Year.	Rice. (Yield in tons.)	Cotton (Yield in bales of 400 lbs. each.)	Oil-seeds (linseed, rape and mustard and sesamum). (Yield in tons.)	Jute (Yield in bales of 400 lbs. each. Year—	
1915-16 ...	8,276,000	30,000	288,000	1916 ...	7,429,900
1916-17 ...	8,028,000	20,000	287,000	1917 ...	7,854,000
1917-18 ...	8,648,000	19,000	261,000	1918 ...	6,348,800
1918-19 ...	6,901,000	32,000	209,000	1919 ...	7,567,800
1919-20 ...	8,289,000	24,600	239,200	1920 ...	5,247,300

(*b*) Showing exports of the following articles from Bengal to foreign countries and coast ports

Year	To foreign countries	To coast ports.	Total.
	Tons	Tons.	Tons
	Jute, raw		
1915-16	594,246	36	594,282
1916-17	532,852	20	532,872
1917-18	278,068	39	278,107
1918-19	395,681	40	395,721
1919-20	585,902	283	586,185
	Cotton, raw.		
1915-16	19,482	3,907	23,389
1916-17	13,041	2,935	15,976
1917-18	7,390	2,839	10,229
1918-19	4,692	3,040	7,732
1919-20	23,774	2,964	26,738
	Rice.		
1915-16	75,455	7,307	82,762
1916-17	64,107	2,352	66,459
1917-18	71,404	8,653	80,057
1918-19	153,326	49,547	202,873
1919-20	48,078	43,161	91,239
	Oilseeds.		
1915-16	106,251	5,164	111,415
1916-17	111,554	6,111	117,665
1917-18	58,716	4,352	63,068
1918-19	140,101	2,962	148,063
1919-20	156,756	4,087	160,843

Suggestions of the Prices Inquiry Committee.

19. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been or are proposed to be adopted with regard to the remedies suggested by the Prices Inquiry Committee that was appointed by the Bengal Legislative Council on the 1st July, 1920?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: A resolution on the report of the Prices Inquiry Committee will shortly be issued by Government

Suggestions as to the abolition of the Board of Revenue.

20. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue be pleased to state whether any suggestion was made to the Government of Bengal by the Government of India or by any higher authority for the abolition of the Board of Revenue at or about the time when the Executive Council was being first introduced in Bengal?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table all the correspondence on the subject?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR o BURDWAN: (*a*) Yes The question was raised in paragraph 169 o the Report of the Royal Commission upon Decentralisation in India and the Government of India subsequently consulted the Governmen of Bengal.

(*b*) Past correspondence has been between the local Government, th Government of India and the Secretary of State, and much of it has been confidential. It could not be published without the consent of al three authorities and for this it is not proposed to ask. A resolution on the subject is about to be moved in the Legislative Council and in connection therewith the attitude of Government will be fully explained.

Tramway strike.

21. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble th Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to stat whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the grea inconvenience that is being caused to the Calcutta public by the recen tramway strike in Calcutta?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what steps if any, have been taken or are proposed to be taken—

(*i*) to bring this strike to an end; and

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the Calcutta Municipal Corporation has any right to purchase the plant, machinery, etc., of the Calcutta Tramways Company?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, at the end of what period of time from now, and under what conditions, can or will such right accrue to the Calcutta Municipal Corporation?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) and (*ii*) Government are in communication with the parties to the dispute with a view to bringing about a settlement.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The Member is referred to paragraph 5 of the agreement between the Corporation of Calcutta and the Calcutta Tramways Company, Limited, which forms a schedule to the Calcutta Tramways (Electric Traction) Act, 1900 (Bengal Act IV of 1900).

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state as to when the communication with the parties began?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: I can tell the Council, Sir, what the position is now. On Saturday morning last Mr Donald brought me the resolution passed by the Calcutta Corporation on the previous evening. Subsequently Mr. Donald and I saw the Manager of the Tramways Company and discussed matters with him. In the afternoon I saw Mr. Nishit Chandra Sen, who is acting on behalf of the men or a considerable section of the men. The result of our negotiations was that the Manager agreed to receive a deputation of the men on strike to discuss the points at issue. The meeting, I believe, is taking place this morning; I have not heard the result and I am not able to forecast it, but if both the parties show good sense and moderation, I trust that the result will be, if not to bring about the cessation of the strike at once, at any rate to clear the ground so as to make a settlement easier. The position is, however, very delicate and there are many difficulties in the way, and I would like to take this opportunity of urging upon everybody concerned, whether in this Council or outside it, that they should abstain from any comments or remarks which would tend to prolong the bitter feelings which have been created and to prevent a settlement being brought about. No satisfactory settlement can be expected unless the parties meet one another in a calm and friendly atmosphere. The Government are watching the situation carefully and will do anything they can to bring about a settlement as early as possible.

Under-trial and convicted prisoners in Jails.

22. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to

state whether, under the present system of jail administration, persons convicted of petty offences, or breach of municipal laws or rules are kept separate from the general body of criminals in jails?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether under-trial prisoners accused of having committed an offence for the first time or of petty offences or of breaches of municipal laws or rules are kept isolated from under-trial ex-convicts, either in jails or *hajats*?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what provision is made for the food and rest of under-trial prisoners in *hajats* or in police-stations before their transference to jails?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when the Report of the Jails Commission, 1919-20, will be available to the public?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) There is no provision to keep persons convicted of petty offences separate from prisoners convicted of other offences. "A" class prisoners or first offenders are, however, kept apart from "B" class or habituals.

(*b*) In jail, wherever accommodation permits, this is done. But generally the answer is in the negative. Segregation of the different classes of under-trial male prisoners is not possible in court *hajats*, as there is usually only one *hajat* at each place where courts are located for all under-trial male prisoners. It should be noted, however, that petty offences and breaches of municipal laws or rules are usually bailable offences, and there is seldom occasion to keep in court *hajats* persons accused of such offences.

(*c*) Instructions regarding the treatment of under-trial prisoners after arrest are contained in rules 151 to 162 of Volume V of Police Regulations, Bengal. The rate of diet allowance for under-trial prisoners has been fixed at seven annas, so long as the price of rice is above 8 seers to the rupee. In jail under-trial prisoners' diet and rest are arranged according to rules 915—919 of the Bengal Jail Code.

(*d*) The local Government have no information.

Metalling the road between Vishnupur and Kotalpur in the Vishnupur subdivision.

23. Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the District Board of Bankura intends metalling the unmetalled portion of the road between Vishnupur and Kotalpur in the subdivision of Vishnupur, and, if so, within what period the work may be expected to be completed?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: A copy of letter No. 4094 J., dated the 12th February, 1921, from the District Magistrate of Bankura, is laid on the table.

Copy of the letter referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 23.

No. 4094 J., dated Bankura, the 12th February, 1921.

From—Rai Sahib B. N. MUKHERJEE, Officiating Magistrate of Bankura.

To The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Local Self-Government Branch.

With reference to your letter No. 1196 L.S.-G., dated the 10th instant, forwarding copy of a question to be asked by Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt at the meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council, I have the honour to state that on enquiry from the Chairman, District Board, it appears that the road between Vishnupur and Kotalpur is 18¾ miles within the District Board area, out of which 13¾ miles have been already metalled. The District Board proposes to metal about one-half mile more during the next year. As for the remaining 4¾ miles, the District Board is not in a position to state within what period they would be able to metal it, as funds are very limited, and it is estimated to cost about Rs. 33,000.

Increased rates of fares in the Port Commissioners' ferry service.

24. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Marine Department aware that fares in the Port Commissioners' ferry service between Barabazar and Shibtala have suddenly been increased by 60 per cent.?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that this has caused hardship to the passengers?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the annual income derived by the Port Commissioners from the said ferry service and the yearly expenditure incurred under that head since the opening of the service?

MEMBER in charge of MARINE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): (*a*) The first class fare between these two stations was increased from four annas to six annas, and the second class fare from one and a half anna to two annas, on the 1st January, 1921. Corresponding increases were made in the cost of monthly tickets.

(*b*) No representation on the subject has been received, but Government have no doubt that the increase has caused a certain amount of hardship to some classes of passengers.

(*c*) A statement showing the annual receipts and expenditure of the entire ferry service of the Port Commissioners since the opening of the service is laid on the table. Figures for the section of the service running between Barabazar and Shibtala are not available. The service has, on the whole, been run at a loss, and the recent increase in working expenses, due to the enhancement of salaries and the rise in the cost of coal and other material, has compelled the Port Commissioners to impose a moderate addition to the fares.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 24 (c).

Year.	Gross receipts.	Expenditure			Net Deficit.
		Working expenses.	Interest and Sinking Fund charges.	Total	
	Rs	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs
1907-08	16,075	70,500	54,948	1,25,448	Dr 79,373
1908-09	1,27,816	1,89,128	54,948	2,44,076	„ 1,16,260
1909-10	1,13,129	1,65,620	54,948	2,20,568	„ 77,439
1910-11	2,34,402	2,04,356	58,975	2,63,331	„ 28,929
1911-12	2,77,586	2,26,862	88,640	3,15,502	„ 37,916
1912-13	3,39,321	2,99,267	90,038	3,89,305	„ 49,984
1913-14	3,78,773	3,60,477	1,04,792	4,65,269	„ 86,496
1914-15	3,84,987	3,61,186	1,07,179	4,68,365	„ 83,378
1915-16 . ..	4,66,247	3,29,805	1,07,179	4,36,984	„ 30,737
1916-17	4,33,361	3,47,793	1,07,203	4,54,996	„ 21,635
1917-18	4,08,777	3,13,320	93,123	4,06,443	„ 2,334
1918-19	4,68,692	3,68,616	93,027	4,61,643	„ 7,049
1919-20 ...	5,09,626	4,62,371	94,613	5,56,984	„ 47,358
1920-21—nine months (April to December)	4,30,895	4,17,630	70,960	4,88,590	„ 57,695
Total ...	45,89,687	41,16,931	11,80,573	52,97,504	Dr 7,07,817

Investigations as to developing the natural resources of the Province.

25. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue be pleased to state whether investigations to ascertain the possibility of increasing the income of the Government of Bengal by the development of the natural resources of the province were made in accordance with the resolution of the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter accepted in April, 1919?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the results of such investigations?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) and (*b*) As stated by the Hon'ble Sir John Cumming in his speech on the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter in March, 1919, a Forest Utilization Officer was appointed to work in direct co-operation with the Director of Industries. Mr. Carroll, Deputy Conservator of Forests, who was appointed to the post, retired in May last. Owing to a shortage of officers it has not yet been possible to appoint another officer in his place.

An officer was also appointed to prepare working plans for the Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts Forest Divisions, after making a survey of the timber available in those two divisions. In spite of difficulties, it is expected that the plans will be finished in 1921-22.

The work of development of forest resources in this Presidency is at present hampered by the depletion of the controlling staff and lack of funds.

As regards the possibility of increasing the revenue from fisheries, the member is referred to the speech of Sir John Cumming, dealing with the resolution mentioned in the question. The inquiry therein referred to has not yet been completed and the matter is still under the consideration of the Board of Revenue.

Trial by Jury.

26. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state how far effect has been given to the resolution moved on the 3th December, 1916, for the extension of trial by jury?

(*b*) To what districts of this Presidency has the system of trial by jury not yet been extended, and why?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) and (*b*) The system of trial by jury has been extended to all the districts in this Presidency, except the non-regulation districts of Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling and the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The reasons for excluding these districts were—

(*a*) The High Court and the local officers who were consulted would not recommend the extension of the system of jury trial to those districts on the grounds that,

(*b*) it would be difficult to get a sufficient number of suitable men in these districts to serve on the jury,

(*c*) in the Jalpaiguri district most of the offenders are coolies employed in tea gardens and the jurors would have to be drawn mainly from among the managers and share-holders of such gardens. Further, there is considerable difficulty of communications in the district, especially during the rains, and

(*d*) in all the three districts the offenders mostly belong to the hill tribes, and it is doubtful whether they would prefer trial by a jury to trial by a Judge and assessors.

Erosion of the town of Noakhali.

27. Munshi MAKRAMALI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to say whether

the Government are aware that a new *char* has been formed just on the southern side of the town of Noakhali?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that if the channel known as the Noakhali khal be diverted at a not very considerable expenditure, the town may be saved?

(*c*) What steps are the Government taking in the matter?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Government are aware that a *char* has formed to the south-west of Noakhali town.

(*b*) Government are advised that a diversion of the Noakhali khal near its mouth is an impracticable proposition, and that were it practicable the effect on the progress and direction of the erosion could not be foretold.

(*c*) No steps are being taken to divert the khal at its mouth.

Alleged rejection of the nomination paper of Babu Monomohan Kanjilal by the District Magistrate of Noakhali.

28. Munshi MAKRAMALI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state why the District Magistrate of Noakhali rejected the nomination paper of Babu Monmohan Kanjilal who stood for election from the Non-Muhammadan constituency of Noakhali?

(*b*) Is it not a fact that his name appears in the Calcutta University voters' list?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) Government are unaware of the grounds on which the nomination paper of Babu Monomohan Kanjilal was rejected by the District Magistrate of Noakhali.

The decision of the District Magistrate, as Returning Officer, is final, subject to a petition to an Election Court.

(*b*) The member is referred to the Electoral Roll of the University constituency, which has been published.

Silting up of the river Lohajang in Tangail.

29. Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation aware that the mouth of the river Lohajang, an offshoot of the Jamuna, has silted up?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member also aware that this affected the health and prosperity of Tangail?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member also aware that there is no other perennial source of drinking water or streams through which the dormant tanks and stagnant pools and canals of the locality can be properly

flushed in the natural course, and navigation made possible throughout the year?

(*d*) Is it contemplated to have the silted up portions of the river dredged in order to cope with the evil?

(*e*) If so, when is the work going to be taken up?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) There is no information before the Irrigation Department regarding the silting of the Lohajang river.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) There is no such proposal before the Government.

(*e*) The question does not arise.

Anti-malarial Drainage Scheme.

30. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state—

(*i*) what progress has been made in the execution of the Anti-malarial Drainage Scheme known as the Nawi Sunthi Scheme;

(*ii*) how far the Bulli Bil Scheme has been carried out; and

(*iii*) when the Government expect that the above schemes will be fully carried out?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*i*) In the Nawi Section, about one-third of the length of the channel has been re-excavated; a quantity of bricks has been manufactured for construction of masonry works in connection with this scheme. In the Sunthi Section, the land estimates are ready and the publication of necessary declaration is under consideration of Government.

(*ii*) The Bulli Bil Scheme has been prepared by local officers and the estimate is being technically examined at present.

(*iii*) No dates of completion of either of these schemes can now be given.

Non-representation of Ministerial Officers' Association on the Committee to inquire into the question of the revision of the pay of ministerial officers.

31. Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state on what grounds the Government have refused the requests of the different Ministerial Officers' Associations for including members from their service on the

Committee recently appointed to inquire into the question of the revision of their pay?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the procedure of co-option from the service has been followed by the Government of India in revising the pay of their clerical staff and in other similar cases?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the procedure of co-option from the service has been followed by this Government in the case of the Subordinate Educational Service, and if so, whether Government are aware tha this departure from the established procedure has produced serious discontent among the members of the ministerial service?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether a full record of the evidence given by witnesses examined by the Committee is being kept for publication?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: (*a*) The suggestion in the question is inaccurate. Only the Writers' Buildings Association made such a request. Government did not consider it desirable to appoint to the Committee persons who might, if so desired by the Committee, be examined as witnesses.

(*b*) Government have no information on this point.

(*c*) A member of the Subordinate Educational Service was appointed to the Committee which was constituted by the Resolution No. 872-T.-Edn., dated the 9th October, 1920, issued by the General (Education) Department of this Government. As regards the latter part of the question, the answer is in the negative.

(*d*) Summaries of the evidence have been kept for the use of the Committee, but it is not proposed to publish them.

Bengal Budget, 1921-22.

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: I have the honour to present the Budget estimates of the Government of Bengal for the year 1921-22. The papers which have been placed in the hands of the members this morning consist of three parts; the Budget figures will be found in the white volume and the other volume consists of two parts; the first contains a general review of the financial situation, and the second part, for which I am indebted to Mr. Marr, contains a detailed review and explanation of the various departmental Budgets. I may say that the reviews have been compiled under great pressure owing to the complete change in the system of accounts, which will be introduced from 1st April next. There has been great difficulty in compiling the figures, and, as a matter of fact, I did not get the final figures until Saturday morning. I am sorry to say that the statements contain a certain number of misprints; correction slips will be issued in the course of

this week, but meanwhile I would ask the indulgence of the members for any mistakes that they may find in going through the papers. I may say that we propose to consider in future years whether we cannot shorten and simplify, to some extent, the Budget reviews; but this year there was no time to make any change of that kind. We had to start with the old forms and push them through so that we might be in time for this meeting.

I do not propose to take up the time of the Council by reading out the general review. Members will no doubt study for themselves all these papers before the Budget discussion begins next week. This morning I will confine myself to a few remarks on the outstanding features of the financial situation of the Presidency and to a few remarks on Budget procedure, which will, I hope, enable our discussions to take a profitable and practical form.

The first four paragraphs of the general review are taken up, as usual, by a discussion of the revised estimates for the current year—1921-22. The revised estimates are of even less interest this year than revised estimates usually are. In the first place, they relate to expenditure which had all been settled and a large part of which had been incurred before this Council came into existence, and this Council has, therefore, no responsibility for it. In the second place, they are based on the old classification of accounts which will be altogether changed on the 1st April next. The main interest of the revised estimates this year lies in the fact that they show how our opening balance for the next year is arrived at. They also afford some basis of comparison between the departmental estimates for next year and those of the year just now coming to an end. This again is vitiated to some extent by the changes in the classification, to which I have already referred. It will be noticed, for instance, that the revenue statement on page 5 of the general review does not correspond with the similar estimate on page 8. In working out the latter, which exhibits the main features of the Budget for 1921-22, we have, as far as possible, given the corresponding figures for 1920-21 under the new heads. As an illustration of the important changes that are coming, I may mention the income-tax. It will be seen that the provincial share of the income-tax receipts for 1921-22 is no less than 2 crores, while income-tax does not appear at all in the Budget estimate for next year. The reason for this, of course, is that, under the new arrangement, income-tax will be an Imperial head, subject only to the exception mentioned in rule 14 of the Devolution Rules. That rule is, in its present form, an extremely complicated one and we feared at one time that it might work to our great disadvantage, in that we might have to pay to the Government of India larger sums as income-tax assignments than we actually collected as tax. The interpretation of the rule has for some time past been under discussion between the Government of India and ourselves, and we have reason to believe that

it is going to be modified. In any case, so far as the next year is concerned, we have reason to anticipate that our assignment to the Government of India will correspond to our net receipts; the exact figure is not yet settled, but, when it is settled, the entry on the receipt side of our account will be cancelled by a corresponding entry on the expenditure side representing the contribution to the Government of India. Therefore, the question of income-tax does not affect the financial position of the Presidency at all as far as the Budget estimate for the next year is concerned, and for this reason no entry under income-tax is shown in the accounts placed before the Council.

I now turn to the main point, which is the Budget estimate for the next year. The main facts of the situation are that our receipts under the heads of revenue, which have been allotted to us in connection with the Reforms Scheme, amount to Rs. 9,72,00,000, while our expenditure charged to revenue is estimated to amount to Rs. 11,80,00,000. We have, therefore, to meet a deficit between income and expenditure of Rs. 2,08,00,000. But, before I go into this, it will be convenient to give a brief general explanation of the expenditure estimates, with special reference to the fact that they show an increase of Rs. 2,65,00,000 over the corresponding figures for the current year. Of this sum of Rs. 2,65,00,000, Rs. 1,27,00,000 is made up of two items. I will discuss them very briefly; the first item is the new contribution of Rs. 63,00,000, which we have to make to the Government of India under the Reforms Scheme. This contribution has been settled by the Joint Committee, whose report was presented to Parliament, and was endorsed by Parliament. The other item of Rs. 64,00,000 is under the miscellaneous head; of this, Rs. 46,00,000 is due to a provision which we have made for increasing the pay of the ministerial and menial establishments. As the Council knows, a committee is now sitting to consider that question. We hope to get its report by the end of next month and give effect to it during the course of next year. The other items under the miscellaneous head are a provision for the anticipated visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and a contribution to the Victoria Memorial, proposals in regard to which will be put before this Council in due course. There is also a new provision of Rs. 6,50,000 for remittances to the High Commissioner in London on account of the leave and pension allowances of officers in England. These charges have hitherto been met by the Government of India and shown in the transfer accounts, but under the Reforms Scheme they will fall on provincial revenues. The total sum which we expect to have to provide on this account during next year is 16 lakhs, but we have as far as possible allocated the amount due for different services under the proper service heads. This item of 6½ lakhs, which I have already mentioned as shown under the miscellaneous head, represents items in regard to which we have not yet received particulars sufficient to enable us to classify them under the ordinary budget heads; they will have to be altered later.

I have now accounted for 127 lakhs of the excess expenditure, and the remaining 138 lakhs will be found mentioned under various heads in the statement on page 10 of my general review. Detailed explanations regarding them are given in Mr. Marr's review, and I will only mention the more important items here.

Under Education, the revised estimates for 1920-21, that is the current year, amount to 108 lakhs, while in the Budget for 1921-22 we have provided for 126 lakhs, an increase of 16 lakhs, due to a revision of pay of the subordinate educational establishments below the Provincial Educational Service, to an increased grant-in-aid to the Dacca University, and to a considerably increased provision under ordinary grants-in-aid.

Under Medical, we have provided 36 lakhs in the revised estimate for the current year, and are providing 52 lakhs for expenditure in 1921-22, an increase of 16 lakhs, which includes a lakh for the leave allowances of officers in England, 3 lakhs for the revision of pay of Assistant Surgeons, Sub-Assistant Surgeons and Military Assistant Surgeons, nearly 2 lakhs for the School of Tropical Medicine, 4 lakhs for the Belgachia Medical Institution, Rs. 1,75,000 for our contribution towards the European Lunatic Asylum at Ranchi and Rs. 1,25,000 representing our contribution to the Indian Lunatic Asylum, which the Bihar and Orissa Government are erecting at the same place, and which we will share with them when it is built.

Under Public Health, there is an increase of over 9½ lakhs, due to the new schemes shown in the schedules and to the establishments required for dealing with them.

Under Waterways and Embankments, there is an increase of 7½ lakhs, to meet the cost of certain drainage projects in connection with anti-malarial measures, the reconstruction of the Kidderpore Bridge and the construction of bridges over the Circular and Eastern Canals in the north of Calcutta.

Under Police, there is an increase of 27 lakhs, due mainly to the provision of pay for the higher subordinate staff both in the Calcutta and the Bengal Police. The pay of the constables, head constables and sub-inspectors has been revised this year, and a revision of the pay of inspectors and officers of similar status can no longer be deferred. We have also provided for an important scheme for the reorganisation of the town police in the 24-Parganas and Hooghly, a scheme which was approved long ago, but has had to stand over for want of funds. In the present state of industrial unrest it can no longer be deferred. There is a further item of 5 lakhs on account of the removal of the Lalbazar House from Amherst Street to a more suitable site in the suburbs.

These items are the main causes of increase under Police.

Under Industries, there is an increase of 7½ lakhs, partly due to new developments in the department, the provision of training classes in the mining centres and partly to the transfer of funds for industrial education to the Department of Industries from the Education Department.

The items which I have mentioned just now make up a total of 213 lakhs, and the balance of 52 lakhs is made up of comparatively small items under various heads, under 5 lakhs in each case. I need not take up the time of the Council by dealing with them in detail now. A full explanation will be found in Mr. Marr's review.

There is one more cheerful item in the expenditure statement on page 10 of my review, and that is the saving of Rs. 5,10,000 on account of interest on debt. This saving is due to the fact that we propose in the current year to pay off our provincial loan account with the Government of India, amounting to over 86 lakhs. This is money which was lent to us by the Government of India in previous years, and which we, in turn, lent out to local bodies, agriculturists and others under the Agriculturists Loans Act, the Agricultural Improvements Act and so forth. When we have paid off the Government of India, the account will become our own property, and can be regarded as part of the provincial resources.

Before I go on to deal with the deficit, it may be of interest to the Council if I mention that the proportion of the provincial expenditure allocated to reserved subjects in the budget amounts to 65 per cent., and that to the transferred subjects to 35 per cent. The Council will understand that these figures are only approximate, because many departments work for both sides of the Government, and it would be impossible to distribute the figures without going into great details. We have, in response to questions which have been put in this Council on the subject, tried to work out figures for previous years, and, though they are only approximate, they may be regarded as fairly comparable with one another, as they have been calculated on the same system for each year.

In the four previous years the expenditure on the departments which are now on the reserved side of the Government was 64, 62, 63 and 62 per cent., respectively; for next year the provision is 65 per cent. This is a small increase and is due, as far as we can make out, mainly to the increased pay given to establishments to meet the rise in the cost of living. The major part of our establishments is of course in the big departments on the reserved side.

Generally speaking, the main causes for the increased expenditure next year are the increased pay which it has been found necessary to give to all the services to meet the economic situation arising out of the war, and partly to the fact that during the war, and after the war, expenditure has been rigidly cut down under the orders of the Government of India, and only urgent and inevitable expenditure has been permitted. The result was that new developments were practically stopped, and many measures of ordinary maintenance had to be suspended or greatly curtailed. This fact will be borne in mind when the Council comes to discuss the grants for individual departments, and I need not elaborate it now.

Turning to the question of the provincial deficit, which is expected to amount next year to 2 crores and 8 lakhs of rupees, we propose to meet this by drawing on our balances. These balances consist partly of what used to be called "doles" granted to us by the Government of India for specific objects when they had a surplus, and partly of the savings in the provincial Government Budgets during the war, due to the fact, which I have already mentioned, that our expenditure during the war was rigidly restricted. Our balances are unduly swollen; on the 31st March they will amount to over 250 lakhs, and we need not feel any hesitation in spending these balances, now that we require money. Even after we have drawn this deficit of 208 lakhs from balances, we shall still be left at the end of next year with a closing balance of over 50 lakhs, and this is sufficient for all practical purposes. Of the expenditure from balances amounting to over 2 crores, we calculate that about 94 lakhs can fairly be treated as capital expenditure at the present moment, as this could be met from a loan, if we were in a position at the present moment to exercise the borrowing powers which we possess under the new constitution. The remainder of the deficit, amounting to 114 lakhs, cannot strictly be regarded as capital expenditure, and we could not put it on to a loan even if we were in a position to raise a loan. To that extent I admit that, in meeting this portion of the deficit from balances, we are open to the charge, at least theoretically, that this is unsound finance, but I hope that, when I have explained the position, the Council will agree with me that in the circumstances of the year no other course was open to us. The present Government of Bengal was constituted on the 3rd January last; the first business we had to undertake was to get our Budget ready for presentation to the Council to-day, and we had only a little over six weeks to do it in. We found ourselves faced with this situation that the heads of revenue, allotted to Bengal under the Reforms Scheme, were insufficient to meet the necessary recurring expenditure. We have, as I have already told the Council, already submitted a representation to the Government of India that our income is entirely insufficient to meet our expenditure. We have drawn special attention to the recommendations of the Joint Committee, that the peculiar financial difficulties of Bengal should receive special consideration at the hands of the Government of India, and in a telegram which we received a few days ago, the Secretary of State has authorised us to announce that the question of the precise action to be taken in pursuance of the recommendation of the Joint Select Committee is under consideration. We may reasonably hope, therefore, that, before the time comes round for asking the Council to consider another Budget, our position, so far as our annual receipts are concerned, will have materially improved. Cherishing this hope, as I do, it is unnecessary for me to discuss this morning what the situation will be if our expectations are disappointed, and if we find it necessary to increase

our revenues in other ways. For the present, we can meet our deficit from accumulated balances, which, for the reasons I have already given, are unduly swollen, and I think that in the position in which we find ourselves, no other course is open to us.

It will be observed that, apart from the Revenue Budget, we have made provision for an expenditure of 70 lakhs under head 57 on the Grand Trunk Canal. This represents the initial expenditure on a big project which is ultimately expected to cost about 330 lakhs and will take 10 to 12 years to complete; it is expected to be remunerative when it is completed. It is proposed to finance this project from a loan, and the Government of India have promised us a loan of 50 lakhs next year, which will enable us to go ahead with the scheme.

I have already suggested, in one or two connections, the possibility of meeting our capital expenditure from loans. Hitherto, this policy has not been open to a local Government. We have had no independent borrowing powers of our own; our income has consisted of a share in certain heads of revenue allotted to us from time to time by the Government of India, and of the doles which the Government of India have granted to us when they were in a position to do so. The local Government have therefore, hitherto, not been in a position to maintain a loan account, such as most other large corporations in this and other countries do. We have had to meet our capital expenditure on schemes, the benefits of which are expected to last for many years, out of our annual revenue. We have now been given borrowing powers of our own, and it is obviously sound finance to spread the expenditure on capital schemes over a number of years, instead of taking them up haphazard in any year when we happen to have a revenue surplus. If we adopt a regular loan policy, we shall be able to draw up a programme of capital expenditure and carry out our schemes in the most efficient manner possible. Hitherto, we have been more or less in the position of a young man in possession of a fine estate, but limited as regards his annual expenditure to a fixed sum allowed to him by his guardians. We have now been placed in complete possession of our estate and can develop it in the manner which commends itself to us as most convenient. The Council may ask why, in these circumstances, we have made no provision in the Budget for next year for any loan expenditure, except in connection with the Grand Trunk Canal. Well, the reason is two-fold. In the first place, it would be unwise for us, in the present state of the money market, to float or attempt to float a provincial loan; on the other hand, we have no debts, and, with the resources of the province behind us, our credit should be good, especially if, as I hope, provincial patriotism rallies to our assistance when we seek to float a provincial loan. But, apart from the present state of the money market, there is a further obstacle in the way of our embarking on a loan at the present time. Unfortunately, as I have shown, our total income is insufficient to meet our total recurring expenditure, and, until this deficit is got rid of, it is

clearly impossible for us to use our borrowing powers to the best advantage. A sound loan policy presupposes provision for a sinking fund, from which a loan taken for a specific object will be paid off, both interest and principal, before the life of the project comes to an end. It is obvious that we cannot add any considerable provision for a sinking fund to our normal recurring expenditure, unless and until our normal recurring income is increased to a pitch commensurate with our necessary annual commitments. As I have already explained, we have laid our difficulties before the Government of India, and the matter is under consideration. I cannot, therefore, go into it further at the present moment, nor is it worth while for me, as matters stand at present, to take up the time of the Council in analysing more fully the various sources of revenue which have been allocated to us under the existing arrangements.

Many of the members of this Council have had no previous experience of administration, and all of us are new to the procedure which will be followed this year in connection with the Budget; it may, therefore, assist the Council if I explain briefly what a Budget is and what the functions of the Council are in regard to the Budget.

The provincial Budget is built up from the departmental Budgets which are prepared by the various departments and by the Accountant-General at the beginning of the cold weather. These departmental Budgets show the sums required for their establishments and other obligatory expenditure in the various departments, and they also contain the new schemes which each department would like to take up if they were in a position to do so. These budgets are pruned, in the first place, in the Finance Department on various technical considerations, and then they are totalled up. If the grand total exceeds the amount at the disposal of Government or estimated to be at the disposal of Government during the coming year, the departments concerned are asked to cut down their demands. That was unfortunately the case this year. We have found it necessary, in consultation with the various departments, to reduce very greatly the original demands of the departments, and to postpone the execution of many excellent and highly desirable schemes. I wish in this connection to express my gratitude to my colleagues on the Executive Council and to the Ministers for the ready manner in which they have met us in regard to this. The position is most unsatisfactory, but everyone has realised that it has been necessary to face the difficulties, and I can only hope that these difficulties will be less next year.

This is how the Budget was framed up to the stage which we have reached to-day.

The Council now have the Budget in their hands. They will have a week to consider it, and next Monday we shall begin the general debate on the financial situation. In that debate—I will quote from the rules—the Council will be at liberty to discuss the Budget as a whole

or any question of principle involved therein, but no motion will be moved at this stage, nor will the Budget be put to the vote of the Council.

This preliminary discussion corresponds very much, as old members of the Council will remember, to the discussion which used to take place at the beginning of April after the details of the Budget had already been discussed in the Council. The difference is that the general discussion will now precede instead of following the detailed discussion. We propose, when the Budget is thrown open to discussion next Monday, that the non-official members should offer such remarks as they may wish to make. The official members, the Members of Council and the Ministers, and, possibly, the Secretaries, will then deal with such matters as have been raised in the course of the debate. So much for the general discussion which will take place next week.

On the 14th of March the Council will begin a new and a very important stage, *viz.*, the voting of grants. A separate demand will be made in respect of each head of the Budget as shown in the Budget statement. These demands will be put before the Council by the Member or Minister in charge of the department, excluding only those items shown as non-voted in the Budget statement. These consist of the items mentioned in section 72D (3) of the Government of India Act, which are not submitted to the Council. They amount to 2 crores of rupees out of the total provincial expenditure of nearly 12 crores, and, in that 2 crores of non-voted grants, there is, of course, our assignment of 63 lakhs to the Government of India; but, in respect of the balance of nearly 10 crores, a separate demand for each major head will, as I have said, be submitted to this Council. Members of the Council will be at liberty to move motions to reduce grants by way of amendment to the main motion that the grant be voted. After these amendments have been disposed of, the main question will be put from the chair and voted upon. The Council's control, however, does not cease with the voting of grants, which will take place in the second fortnight of March. The rules provide for the control, being exercised throughout the year. Under the old system, the Budget was little more than an estimate. The original Budget was an estimate framed some months before the year began, of what Government was likely to spend during the year. That estimate was revised from time to time in the light of experience and fuller information, and the local Government had full power, subject to the control of the Government of India and the Secretary of State, to alter its own estimates, and to spend money provided in the Budget for one purpose on an entirely different purpose, which perhaps was not shown in the Budget at all. So far as the voted grants are concerned, under the new system, the old powers of Government have, in a very large measure, passed to the Council. The Council will next month vote certain sums of money to the various departments under each major head; neither the Government nor the department concerned will have power

to spend these grants on other major heads without reference to the Council, unless, of course, the Governor uses the powers given to him under section 72 (D) of the Government of India Act. Furthermore, even if Government should find during the year that the sum provided by the Council for a particular major head is not required in full for that head, it will be necessary for Government to obtain the sanction of the Council to spend the excess on some other head. It will not be open to Government, for example, to transfer surplus funds under Education to Police, Jails or other departments. It will be necessary for Government to ask the Council to sanction the transfer of funds from one department to the other, and, ordinarily, in practice, the procedure will be for Government to place before the Council a supplementary estimate and ask the Council to vote a supplementary grant. The powers of control over expenditure, which are entrusted to the Council, will be exercised through the Committee on Public Accounts. That Committee will be appointed, under the rules in the Council Manual, at the beginning of April after the grants have been voted. Two-thirds of the members will be elected by the non-official members of the Council, and the remaining one-third will be appointed by His Excellency the Governor. The main duty of the Committee, as laid down in the rules, is to satisfy itself that the money voted by the Council has been spent within the scope of the demands granted by the Council, and to bring to the notice of the Council every re-appropriation from one grant to another, and every re-appropriation within a grant which has not been made with proper sanction, or which has the effect of increasing the expenditure on an item, the provision for which has been specifically reduced by a vote of the Council. The precise procedure under which the Committee will work has not yet been decided, and I think it would be a mistake to tie ourselves down to any definite procedure before we have gained some practical experience of the working of these novel functions. The Council may, however, be assured that we shall afford the Committee every facility for the due discharge of its important duties and of its responsibilities to the Council.

To sum up, then, the Council has been given the power to fix the grant under each major head in the first instance, and then to see that these grants are not exceeded without further reference to the Council. I need not emphasize the importance of the powers of control given to the Council by these new measures. As I have already said in a debate which took place about 10 days ago, our desire—the desire of Ministers and Members—is to put the Council in a position to use its great powers of control wisely and sanely, and to give it all the information which it requires for this purpose. It will be a great convenience to us if any member, who intends to raise any particular points either during the general discussion of the Budget on the 28th, or in connection with the voting of grants, which will begin on the 14th March, will give us notice as early as possible. Notice of motions to reduce

grants must be handed in before 3 P.M. on the 4th March; but apart from these formal motions, it would, as I have said, be a great convenience if members wishing to raise specific points would let us know as early as possible beforehand what points they want to raise and what information they want regarding them. So far as the Budget is concerned, Mr. Marr and myself will be happy to see members at any time either in this Chamber, as opportunity arises, or at Writers' Buildings, and to supply any information or any explanation that may be required on points which are not clear to members.

I need not take up the time of the Council any longer. I beg formally to introduce the Budget estimates of the Government of Bengal for the year 1921-22.

The Deputy-President's Emoluments Bill, 1921.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER moved "that the Deputy-President's Emoluments Bill, 1921, be taken into consideration."

I explained the object of this Bill on a previous occasion, and notice of only one amendment has been given in respect of it. The issue so raised is a very simple one, and practically comes to this: whether this new post which has been created should practically be an honorary one, or whether attached to it there should be a reasonable but not excessive remuneration

The motion was put and agreed to.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY withdrew the following motion: "That in line 4 of clause 2 (1) of the Bill, for the words 'five thousand rupees' the words 'rupee one' be substituted."

I rise with reference to the amendment which now stands in my name in spite of the varied attempts of the Legislative Department to attach it to my illustrious relatives; but before I proceed further, I must make my position clear to the House, that it was not with any desire on my part to belittle the importance of the office of the Deputy-President or to belittle the personality of the Deputy-President, to whom I bow with the respect which is his due; it was not with any desire on my part to show to this assembly that I think that this is the proper arena for facetious amendments and facetious resolutions that I sent in notice of this amendment, but merely because I was under the impression that there was a technical difficulty in any attempt on the part of the House to defeat the Bill. I did not wish to give the subtle law officers of Government an opportunity of turning round and saying that we have failed in our efforts to make the post strictly honorary, as under the provisions of the Government of India Act we are required to fix an amount. But I regret very much that I have not been able to disabuse the minds of the members of this House of their pre-conceived notion that there is something ludicrous and incongruous between Rs. 5,000 and rupee one or to convince them that this is a purely formal

resolution. Therefore, with the leave of the House, I beg to withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was then, with the leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I had sent two notices of amendments in connection with this Bill, and they have been disallowed, but I wish to speak on the provisions of the Bill. I wish to explain to the House what I proposed was that——

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I rise to a point of order.

The PRESIDENT: Let me hear what the Rai Bahadur has to say, as I understand he desires to speak on the Bill.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: What I want to say is that, as far as this Bill stands, it is obligatory on the House to vote a salary as soon as the appointment of the Deputy-President is made and confirmed by His Excellency the Governor.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: May I rise to a point of order?

The PRESIDENT: I think Sir Henry Wheeler must be given an opportunity of moving that the Bill, as settled in Council, be passed before any member can be allowed to speak.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER moved "that the Bill, as settled in Council, be passed."

In view of the fact that the only amendment of which notice was given has been withdrawn, I do not propose at this stage to offer any further remarks.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I regret I cannot agree to the provision as it stands, not because my amendment is not on the agenda, but I must say this that, if it had been provided that it would be at the discretion of the Council to pay a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,000 from time to time, I think it would have given the House an opportunity of fixing such salary as they might think fit. As far as I understand, this Bill, as soon as it becomes law, will not allow the Council to fix a salary which they choose; and there is another point which might have been also provided——

The PRESIDENT: I must point out once again that there is a statutory obligation on the House to fix a salary. The only salary which has been proposed is Rs. 5,000. As the amendment has been withdrawn, I do not think, therefore, that there is any other proposal before the House on which my friend can speak. I would therefore put the question to the House.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 2 P.M. on Tuesday, the 22nd February, 1921.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 22nd February, 1921, at 2 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 105 nominated and elected members

Resolutions

(under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest).

Competitive Examinations.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): I have been informed that the mover of the first resolution wants to withdraw it By the leave of the Council, he may withdraw it The two amendments that follow will also be deemed to be withdrawn.

The resolution and amendments were as follows:—

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: "This Council recommends to the Government that the recruitment of Deputy Collectors and Sub-Deputy Collectors should ordinarily be made by an open competitive examination, the Government retaining the power of nominating a certain number every year according to circumstances."

Maulvi ABDUL KARIM to move by way of amendment that in motion No 7, after the word "examination" the following be inserted, namely: "provision being made to secure the due representation of communities as well as of the districts in the services."

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED to move by way of amendment that at the end of motion No. 7 the following be added, namely: "Provided that some posts be reserved for Muhammadans—the whole number of posts required for the posts reserved for Muhammadans being in the ratio of the number of the whole population of the province to the total number of the Muhammadan population in the province, such posts being competed for by Muhammadans only."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "This Council recommends to the Government that recruitment to the following Government posts be made by means of suitable open competitive examinations, due provision being made to safeguard the interests of communities, as well as the claims of individual districts and divisions, viz:—

(*i*) Deputy Collectors and Munsifs;

(*ii*) Sub-Deputy Collectors;

(iii) Superintendents, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Excise;
(iv) Sub-Registrars;
(v) Deputy Superintendents, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police; and
(vi) Inspectors and Auditors of Co-operative Societies."

Before I say anything on the resolution itself, I think I ought to say a few words about the amendments that have been proposed. There are eleven of them, and from this it may appear that there is a considerable difference of opinion regarding this matter. But when the amendments are analysed, it will be evident that there is not much opposition to the principle of competition, which is the very essence of my resolution. I invite this Council to declare that the principle of open competition for recruitment to public services is superior to that of nomination. As regards the details of working it out, and as to safeguarding the interests of localities and communities, there may be and there must be some difference of opinion. I want to make it clear, however, that once the principle of competition is accepted, I am quite anxious to come to an amicable settlement with regard to the details. It is not my desire to create a dissension, and I shall welcome any suggestion that tends to bring about a harmonious working out of the details.

Competition is not a new matter before the Council. Over three years ago, I think it was in November 1917, the question of competitive examination as a method of recruitment for the Provincial Executive and Judicial Service was taken up. There was a very interesting debate, and the non-official members spoke in favour of the principle of competition. The Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler traced the history of the policy of the Government towards recruitment of these services in Bengal since 1868 and mentioned the necessity of considering the recommendations of the Public Services Commission and also of consulting the High Court about this matter, and ended the discussion with these words: "We, on behalf of the Government, promise to pay attention to this resolution in our subsequent consideration of what the future method of recruitment will be."

On this assurance, the resolution was withdrawn.

A long time has passed since then, and I believe we are just where we were at that time. To-day the system of nomination prevails in all the services, Executive, Judicial and others. I know that Government is rather slow to move, but it seems inexplicable that a matter like this could not be decided in more than three years. I believe a statement was made during the last year's budget debate that the Secretary of State had been moved in the matter, but since then we have heard nothing about it.

With the advent of constitutional Government, the angle of vision has changed in many matters, and it is time that we fixed up our standpoint as far as the public services are concerned. Whatever may be

said in theory, it seems a curious anomaly that in this country, the public servants are not regarded as servants of the public but rather as their masters. This idea has got to be changed. Our leading Minister is reported to have said the other day, that the Government has been partially nationalised and that the Ministers are here, because they command the confidence of the public. If this be true, how much more is it true that the public servants should also command the confidence of the people, and not merely the confidence of the bureaucracy.

What is the first condition that people may have confidence in the public service? It is no other than that the officers of that service should be recruited by means of fair and open competition and not by any process which may resemble back-door influence. "Fair field and no favour," is a maxim which is very well understood by the people.

The drawbacks of nomination are serious and were ably described by all the non-official members, who took part in the debate of that Council meeting which I have mentioned above.

We have no authoritative statement as regards the comparative merits and demerits of officers of the Executive Service who were recruited by means of competition and nomination respectively, but this much can be asserted that the public have greater confidence on those officers who were taken as a result of competitive tests.

The system of nomination is pernicious and demoralising, as it cannot but foster a spirit of servility in the candidate and a spirit of favouritism in the officer who makes the nomination. The back-door of nepotism and favouritism is productive of untold evil, when the machinery of nepotism is skilfully handled for political purposes, public services become the hunting ground of a section or race of sycophants who can play the double game skilfully and diplomatically.

I hope this House will kindly bear with me when I mention two typical cases that have come under my personal observation, to show the mentality that is engendered by this system of nomination. One officer, who has been taken into one of the Executive Services, after three years of running about from one Burra-sahib to another told me plainly that he was afraid of attending a *jatra* party (musical dramatic party performed by Mukunda Chandra Das) lest his Collector should be displeased. I mention this, because this particular *jatra* party is well known all over Bengal to be quite innocuous. I am sure the Collector did not forbid him from attending, but his mentality had so much degenerated that his criterion of judging an action was no longer whether it was right or wrong, but whether it would please or displease his superior officers. And this young man had even taken part in politics in his college days! I know of the father of another young man who prided himself on having secured certificates from 15 civilians. I do not know whom to pity most, the candidate's father or the 15 civilians from whom he got the certificates. What humiliations must he have passed through, before securing these 15 certificates. This is the way our flowers of

youth are being degenerated and demoralised. Not only the youths, but their guardians and friends get a mania of certificate-hunting, which is bound to destroy the self-respect of anybody.

Though the system of competition has been tried once or twice in the Executive Service, it is a curious anomaly that the judicial branch of the Provincial Service has all along been recruited by nomination, pure and simple. It is a mystery that this system continues unchanged so long. It cannot be said that there have not been any complaints against this system. Retired Munsifs and Sub-Judges are already beginning to look upon this service as their special heritage to provide their sons and sons-in-law with. I have heard it said that in some cases of sons of Sub-Judges or Judges, the rule of requiring three years' legal practice before enrolment has been relaxed. I am not sure, but, if it is so, is it because the authorities think that the art of dispensing justice is hereditary? In India, some arts and crafts are handed down from father to son. Do the Government wish to include dispensation of justice among those arts and crafts? Or are the Government anxious to add a new caste of dispensers of justice to the already too numerous castes of India?

In whatever way we may look at it, the present system of recruiting Munsifs is pernicious. You yourself, Sir, as a Member of the Bengal Executive Council, said in your note of dissent from the views expressed by the Government of Bengal regarding the questions of the Public Services Commission: "Those who enter into the Provincial Judicial Service are generally men who have failed in the Bar and whose experience in the legal profession is not of any particular value."

I do not wish to say anything against the whole Provincial Judicial Service which has produced some extremely able officers, but I do say that we have got these able officers in spite of the present rotten system. This system has opened the door to quite a number of Munsifs who cannot at all command the confidence of the people. Practising lawyers, arguing before such officers, lose all confidence in them, and a deep under-current of discontent is generated against the system which sends such men to preside over them. He is led to think that he is wasting his arguments and that the presiding officer is wasting public money and Government prestige. In the Judicial Service again, the proximity of the High Court to some districts has given an immense advantage to the people of these localities as against their brethren who come from distant parts. From the figures compiled in 1916, it appeared that out of a total of 300 members in the Judicial Service, the Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions had only 31 members, whereas one district alone in Western Bengal had 63 members and the other three Divisions together had 269 members. Since then, further appointments have been made, but even now the proportion of appointments, as between one locality and another, is hopelessly abnormal.

In the Police Department also, though the tone of the service has somewhat improved of late, there is still much room for improvement. Unless we tempt the best of our young men by fair open competitive examinations, we cannot expect this department to command that confidence and sympathy of the public, which is so much necessary for the smooth working of this department. It is no use multiplying arguments. In all services, competition is better than nomination. I cannot better conclude this portion of my remarks than by quoting what the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim, now our Member in the Bengal Executive Council, said in his minute to the Report of the Public Services Commission: "The distinctive feature which has established it (competition) most in popular favour is the decisive safeguard which it provides against the danger of partiality in the exercise of State patronage. Open competition stimulates the habit of self-reliance in young men. It enables the Government to save itself from no inconsiderable odium, which is inseparable from any form of nomination. I have been particularly impressed by the unanimous condemnation by Indian opinion of the system of pure nomination as it is now worked in this country. It is at the same time, both possible and desirable that in the locally recruited services, a substantial recognition should be given, whenever practicable, to the general advantages of the system of competition."

I do not know that any word of mine can carry greater condemnation of the system of nomination.

At the present time, the pay and prospects of almost all the services have been improved, and it is possible to get the best among our young men to come forward for service. Now is the time to introduce competitive tests, which alone can improve the tone of all the services.

I find that there is an amendment by Mr. S. R. Das wishing to insert the word "direct" before the word "recruitment." I quite appreciate his point that he would like to introduce open competition in cases of direct recruitment only. I was also in favour of this idea at first. But unfortunately, I have heard of the great discontent that prevails among Sub-Deputy Collectors and other Subordinate Service men, who, though efficient workers, could not get promoted to higher services because a more fortunate brother officer could unduly influence a senior officer, which they could not. All the defects of nomination apply here also. Surely some sort of a departmental competitive test may be introduced which will give all the officers an equal chance of promotion. Discontent is never good for any service, and the sooner the legitimate causes are removed, the better for all concerned.

I find that one of the members wishes to remove "Sub-Registrar" from the list of services mentioned. Another member wants to delete the Excise Inspectors, another, Police Inspectors and another Co-operative Inspectors. I do not know what charm there is in these posts that

they should be kept specially closed for nomination. The augean stables must be cleared, and it is best that the clearance should be wholesale and not piecemeal.

I now come to the reservations in the last part of my resolution Personally I should have liked open competition, pure and simple That is the main principle of my resolution. But I am conscious that all communities and localities are not equally advanced in western education. I am proud to notice that our Muhammadan brethren have made great advances in western education during the last ten years, but there are other smaller communities where the progress of education has not been so rapid or widespread. Then, again, there are some districts or divisions which have not had the same advantages as those near the metropolis. It is desirable that all communities, and all parts of the province, should have their fair share of representation in the public services

The present system of determining the number of recruits to be taken from particular communities and localities for the Executive Services seems to commend itself. I should suggest that the Government may decide at the beginning of each year how many vacancies are to be filled from each community and locality

I have just now received a letter from my Muhammadan friends saying that the matter of representation of communities may be amicably settled by a discussion of the matter outside the Council They whole-heartedly support the principle of competition. In view of the strong feeling regarding the question of representation of communities and the possibilities of an amicable settlement, I should like to ask the permission of the House to withdraw the resolution now, in order to bring it forward at a subsequent meeting. May I have that permission Sir?

The PRESIDENT: I think you have already discussed it at considerable length and you ought to go on

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I want the permission of the Council to withdraw this resolution, so that I might bring it forward a a subsequent meeting.

The PRESIDENT: Permission is asked to withdraw the resolution If there is no objection, the resolution might be allowed to be withdrawn. The motion, with its amendments as follow, was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The amendments were as follows:—

Mr. S. R. DAS to move by way of amendment that in motion No. 1: the word "direct" be inserted between the words "that" and "recruitment."

Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI to move by way of amendment that in motion No. 12 the word "direct" be inserted between the words "that" and "recruitment."

Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI to move by way of amendment that in motion No. 12, after the word "recruitment," the following be added, namely: "to the extent of three-fourths of the total number of vacancies each year."

Mr. S. R. DAS to move by way of amendment that in motion No. 12 the following words be omitted, namely: "due provision being made to safeguard the interests of communities, as well as the claims of individual districts and divisions."

Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI to move by way of amendment that in motion No. 12 for the words "due provision being made to safeguard the interests of communities as well as the claims of individual districts and divisions," the following be substituted, namely: "fifty per cent. of the posts being reserved for Muhammadans, to be awarded to Muhammadan candidates in order of merit on the list."

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur to move by way of amendment that in motion No. 12 for the words "as well as the claims of individual districts and divisions," the following be substituted, namely: "and to ensure the promotion of deserving public servants from the lower to the higher posts or grades of service."

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ to move by way of amendment that in motion No. 12, after the word "divisions," the following be inserted, namely: "and that 50 per cent. of the appointments be reserved for Muhammadans to be so filled up."

Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI to move by way of amendment that in clause (*vi*) of motion No. 12 the words "and munsifs" be omitted, and that in clause (*iii*) the word "Inspectors" be omitted.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ to move by way of amendment that clause (*vi*) of motion No. 12 be omitted.

Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI to move by way of amendment that in clause (*v*) of motion No. 12 the word "Inspectors" be omitted.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED to move by way of amendment that at the end of motion No. 12 the following be added, namely: "Provided that some posts be reserved for Muhammadans the whole number of posts required for the posts reserved for Muhammadans being in the ratio of the number of the whole population of the province to the whole number of the Muhammadan population in the province, such reserved posts being competed for by Muhammadans only."

Agricultural Schools.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "This Council recommends to the Government that suitable provision be made in the ensuing Budget for starting an agricultural school attached to the existing agricultural farm at the headquarters of the Rajshahi district."

Sir, when three years ago I brought this matter before the old Council, the Hon'ble Mr Cumming, who was then in charge of the Agricultural Department, accepted the proposition in these words: "Early steps be taken to impart suitable education regarding improved methods of agriculture, and that demonstration farms be established in different centres in this Presidency." This was accepted on the 22nd January, 1918. In 1919 my friend, Mr. Huq, brought forward a resolution at the Dacca Council meeting, pressing for the establishment of a fully equipped agricultural college at Dacca, which was accepted with certain modifications. It was said that an "institute" should be established at Dacca in place of a "college" I understand that an institute has been opened there since January last, and I also understand that arrangements are being made for starting an agricultural school at Chinsura. My original proposal, which was accepted in 1918, was that arrangements should be made in different centres for imparting instruction in improved methods of agriculture. The proposal which is now before the House is that suitable provision be made in the ensuing Budget for starting an agricultural school attached to the existing agricultural farm at the headquarters of the Rajshahi district My excuse is that though it is not known yet what benefit has been derived by the starting of the institute at Dacca, there is another arrangement in the Dacca Experimental Farm for imparting practical agricultural instruction to cultivators. We do not know what satisfactory result has been obtained from this arrangement, but when the principle has been accepted that arrangements should be made for imparting agricultural education in different centres of the province, gradual steps should be taken for starting an agricultural school in each division at least. If there has been one in the Dacca Division and arrangement is being made for establishing another in the Burdwan Division, it is time that another may be started in the Rajshahi Division. The question is not a new one—the Calcutta University Commission expressed its opinion on the point. I often wondered that in a province where out of 46 millions of people 35 millions live upon agriculture, there was no suitable arrangement for imparting agricultural education. Vocational education is now a necessity. By the development of industrial activities, with the help of properly-equipped technological institutes, by imparting commercial education under proper arrangements and by the development of agricultural education, I think, the rising generation can have sufficient employment and can make a living of their own. It is no longer sufficient that education should be imparted merely for turning out men for subordinate services or for private employment. It is now time that something should be done by which the people can stand upon their own legs. But if anything industrial or commercial is to be done, it requires a good deal of money.

I understand that the object of starting an agricultural institute in connection with the Dacca University is to turn out qualified officers

for employment in the Education Department or to teach the zamindars to improve their land or to turn out some managers for the zamindars, who can do something for improving the agricultural aspect of the management they may take charge of, or to turn out some research scholars, as is done in Pusa; but that is not the thing which I aim at. My idea is that any one with 20 acres or so of land and with moderate means at his disposal can learn agriculture in all its different aspects and can make a decent living. He can safely earn at least Rs. 600 a year and he need not go anywhere for employment as an M.A. with the prospect of getting Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 a month. At present I know a cultivator makes Rs. 10 a bigha or Rs. 30 an acre—but then there are dangers. He must know how to utilise his resources, he should know proper manuring, he should know how to raise at least two crops a year, and along with that, he should know how to economise labour and how to take advantage of co-operative movements. Without these things it is not possible for him to be thrifty and self-reliant. I am well acquainted with the cultivator, and whenever there is a failure of crop he is put to great difficulty and sometimes he has to depend entirely upon the sweet pleasure of *mahajans*, and sometimes he loses all the land he possesses. Under these circumstances I think agricultural education should be imparted in such a way as to enable a man of moderate means to make a decent living without the help of any costly arrangement or any costly enterprise.

After the separation of Bihar, my friend Mr. Huq was anxious that as we were going to lose the advantage of the Sabour College, an institute should be started for this presidency at Dacca. Such an institute could be useful no doubt, but that is not the thing which I aim at and that is not the thing which was accepted by Government three years ago.

There is another reason for bringing forward this motion before the House. At Rajshahi there is an agricultural experimental farm. Recently the late lamented Basanta Kumar Roy of Dighapatia gave a donation of 2½ lakhs in 3½ per cent. Government paper for imparting higher training in agriculture and other technological instructions in the Rajshahi College under the supervision of the Calcutta University. I do not know whether that will be done, but, if it is to be done, this school will be a preliminary step. There is another thing which I should like to bring forward before this Council. At present Government are spending Rs. 9 lakhs a year for agricultural improvement, but I do not know, Sir, how much it has benefited the people. The cultivators cannot learn much in an experimental farm. It is really in a demonstration farm, where if it can be demonstrated to the people by showing the method of work and how it can be profitably carried out, that the cultivators can be benefited. In an experimental farm some experiment is made on a few cottahs of land under a costly arrangement and, upon the result of that, a general inference is made. Though in

the experimental farm at Rajshahi some cultivators wanted to learn something, so far as I know no one was much benefited by it. Recently Dr. Neogi, Professor of Chemistry in the Rajshahi College, is trying to take a number of boys from the 1st to the 4th year classes of the College Department to the farm for the purpose of imparting some agricultural education to them, but the arrangement is very defective. As I have already submitted, expert knowledge is necessary, as we should know how the yield of land can be improved and how we can take benefit by manures and other things. Expert knowledge and theoretical learning should both go hand in hand. A committee was appointed by the Calcutta University in which Mr. President himself took part, and a report was submitted in which it was suggested that not only a college class should be opened for higher training in agriculture but also an intermediate course was necessary. My idea is that such a school for the intermediate course should be started at Rajshahi, where a department should also be opened for imparting practical training to the cultivators, not by starting experimental farms, but by starting small demonstration farms. If that is done, both the illiterate and literate class will get sufficient training and the cultivators will be much benefited, and the youthful generation, who are anxious to get some employment here and there even on Rs. 30, Rs. 40 or Rs. 25 a month, can go back to their own homes with limited resources at their disposal and can start a farm and can thus make a decent living. This is the thing which I want, and this, I think, should be done. Although Government accepted the proposition three years ago, I can safely say that up to this moment nothing has been done in the direction which I aimed at. There are other proposals before the House to-day, the aim of which is also to provide vocational education, and a suggestion has been made that a committee should be formed in the first instance to draw up a scheme as to how this can be done. If this is taken as a part of that or if any committee be necessary, I have no objection. My proposition is that something ought to be done, and my suggestion is that one such school should be started at Rajshahi. With the help of the Rajshahi College and with that of the experimental farm this can be done at a very moderate expense. I had a talk with Professor Neogi on the subject, and he told me that this could be done with an initial expenditure of Rs. 10,000 and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 4,000. This is a very modest scheme and it should, I think, be given effect to.

With these few words I commend this resolution to the acceptance of the House.

Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED: I beg to support this resolution.

Colonel A. J. PUGH: May I point out that under section 94 of the Bengal Legislative Council Rules and Standing Orders there is no power to increase the grant in the Budget?

The PRESIDENT: The question of a grant does not arise at this stage. It is only a recommendation and Government may not accept the recommendation. I think the discussion may go on.

Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED: I would draw the attention of the House to one aspect of the question, which is this Many students go up for the Entrance Examination—either they come up in the 3rd Division or they are not successful in passing the examination Having failed in the examination, they fall back upon society and, having no occupation, they take to touting, and the danger of touting is well known to many of my friends and I need not make a repetition. There is another point, Sir, that 90 per cent of the population of the district are agriculturists, and we have found by experience that by improved methods of agriculture the outturn can be increased If the boys who have got plucked at the Entrance Examination and those who are not able to go up for the I A Examination, get a practical training in agriculture, they can go back to the villages and earn a decent living by taking to agricultural pursuits. I know, Sir, that one of my friends in Rajshahi has taken to agriculture and the same land which was producing three years before six maunds of paddy, has this year produced fifteen maunds We all know that agriculture is the chief thing in Bengal

With these few words I support the resolution.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I have much pleasure in supporting the resolution which has been moved by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri I am very glad to learn that Government have been pleased to establish an agricultural farm in the district of Rajshahi, but I am sorry to find that an agricultural school has not yet been attached to it. It is just like the play of Hamlet without Hamlet. Sir, 75 per cent of the population of Bengal depends on agriculture, and it is absolutely necessary that an agricultural farm and an agricultural school should be established in every district of Bengal, not to speak of the district of Rajshahi, in which, as I have been informed by my friend, 90 per cent. of the population depend on agriculture. Sir, we all grudge the high price of wheat, the high price of rice and other food-grains—and what is the reason? The reason is nothing but this. The outturn of rice, the outturn of wheat, the outturn of food-grains in India, is materially less than that in the other civilised countries of the world. In the case of rice, Mr. President, I may say that the outturn of rice in Japan is more than double that of Bengal. Similarly, in the case of wheat, the outturn of wheat in Canada is more than double of that in the Punjab The want of agricultural education is alone responsible for this poor state of things.

With these remarks I beg to submit that this resolution should be accepted by this Council.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: The resolution that is before the House is no doubt a very good one, but before we have formed a committee to consider as to what sort of schools we are going to have, it is very difficult for us to vote for it. The mover of the resolution has not given us any idea of what sort of curriculum will be taught in these schools and what will be their ultimate object. So it is very difficult for us to form an idea whether it will really prove a boon to the country. The thing is, Sir, that we have got some sort of idea of the colleges at Pusa and Sabour, but we have not got any idea of the school and its curriculum. Sir, we know very well that in this province the cultivators are the worst sufferers--the zamindars as a class stand aloof. They do not engage any qualified man for giving instruction to their labourers, or to do anything for the cultivators themselves. They manage their own things. If the boys of cultivators are taught some elementary curriculum dealing with the principles of agriculture and principles of manures and all these things, they will be useful; otherwise a miniature college in the name of an agricultural school will not be of any good. I therefore suggest that a committee be formed to consider the curriculum that will suit the convenience of the people of this province, and then agricultural schools may be started. Then there is another thing which we will have to consider. If we are going to have these schools, we must have to curtail expenditure from some other heads either from Education or from somewhere else. Therefore we must compare side by side the advantages and disadvantages of having these schools and then, and then only, we can decide which way we should go. For the present there are some demonstrators to help the district agricultural officers and I have some experience of these demonstrators, and my idea is that they know less than nothing. They are not useful to the cultivators, but when they make some suggestions to the cultivators they make a laughing-stock of themselves. Even one of the District Officers on some occasions made some statements which are quite ridiculous. So, Sir, it is incumbent upon us, having regard to the circumstances of the province, that we have to form the curriculum first, and then we have to form an idea of the expenditure that will be involved by the establishment of this sort of school, and then we can decide whether we should have schools at every divisional headquarters or at every district headquarters.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I have great pleasure in supporting the resolution moved by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri. It is on general principles that I do so; for it cannot be gainsaid that the backbone of our country is the agriculturist and we extract all our silvery juice from him. Therefore, even from the motive of self-interest, which perhaps appeals to many more than any other interest, we should try to lay out as much as possible of the savings which we can scrape out from other demands for the purpose of improving the condition of the agriculturist. What is required is that agriculture should be less

costly, but at the same time more productive. It is well known that our agricultural process is being carried on with the same ancient and almost out-of-date implements that have been handed down from generation to generation. It is a pity that, although there are sufficient funds for other costly administrative schemes, there is hardly any for the acquisition of land which can be utilised as pasture ground for the cattle; as a result, cattle which are very necessary for agriculture, are dying out. Something must be done to remedy this evil an evil which is eating into the vitals of the agriculturist. I therefore suggest that every district should have an agricultural demonstration farm or school, and I will go a step further and say that every school in the general line should have a vocational agricultural class as has been tried in the Durgapur School in Chittagong We ought not to spare any means whatsoever to impress as much as possible the demonstrative value of improved agricultural methods throughout the length and breadth of the province.

From this general point of view, therefore, I heartily support the resolution

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: Of the many wrongs of which the Government is accused, I think the neglect of Government towards agriculture is the greatest The agriculturists are the backbone of the country and it is necessary for the welfare of the country, as well as of the Government, that proper steps be taken to ensure them a decent living When we look into the present condition of the agriculturists we find that they are half-naked and half-starved In order to do away with such a state of things it is necessary that not only one agricultural farm should be established at Rajshahi, but there should be agricultural schools in every district, and every effort should be made to enable the agriculturists to produce from their land sufficient to feed and clothe themselves and also to help the country in becoming rich. I have no hesitation in supporting the resolution of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri. I submit that the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture will have a great task before him, for it will be for him to make the agriculturists quite contented and happy.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): I need hardly say that no one is more anxious than I am to see the expansion of sound agricultural instruction in Bengal, and I oppose this resolution mainly on the ground that it is premature Government are giving a trial to the policy of imparting a sound training to boys of the agricultural classes who, after their period of training, will go back to the land and apply what they have learnt to the working of their own holdings. With this object Government sanctioned in 1919 the establishment of two agricultural vernacular schools, one at the Dacca Farm and the other at the Chinsura Farm. The curriculum of these schools includes the principles of agriculture, practical farm work,

carpentry and smithy and general education, and the course lasts for two years. The school at Dacca was opened last year and the one at Chinsura will be opened almost at once. But the establishment of these schools is an experiment only. We do not know what demand there will be for the kind of education they impart, or whether results of that education will be as beneficial as we hope. It is impossible to judge results when even the first batch of students at Dacca are only half way through their course.

As I have said, I entirely sympathise with the mover's desire to see an expansion of agricultural education in Bengal, but I believe in advancing slowly and surely. Until experience has shown that the agricultural schools at Dacca and Chinsura are justified by their results, it would be premature to extend the experiment. I assure the mover that Government will give their close attention to the matter and I hope that he will withdraw his resolution.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I am glad that I am assured that Government will do all that lies in their power to improve the condition and prospects of agriculture in the province. But I cannot understand why I am asked to withdraw the resolution. I have already said that something ought to be done at once to provide vocational education for the people in general. It is a matter which has long been under the consideration of the Government. Three years ago, when I brought forward a similar resolution, the principle was accepted by Government, but nothing has been done yet. A school has recently been started at Dacca; but are we to wait and see the result of the education that is imparted there? There is no doubt that, if we can train our boys properly in the improved methods of agriculture, it will be paying. The matter was discussed at length by the Calcutta University Commission and a competent committee of the Calcutta University, when it was accepted that a better arrangement should be made for imparting agricultural education. We all know that although a pretty large sum of money is spent year after year on the existing agricultural farms, the cultivators derive little benefit from them. They have not created any vocational line or opened up a new avenue of life for the youthful generation. As I have shown, if agriculture can be taught in all its different branches, viz., agriculture proper, horticulture, sericulture, arboriculture, and vegetable growing, fruit-growing, and fruit-preserving and also the allied branches, along with pisciculture and cattle-rearing, it is sure to be paying, and the country will be benefited thereby. Our cultivators have not been benefited in the least by the experimental farms, because they cannot follow what is done there; they have not been shown how agriculture can be made profitable and the yield of land can be increased by an improved method of cultivation. That is what we want to be done, and no time, I think, should be lost in making a start. It has been

repeatedly urged in the press and in the Legislative Council and by the University Commission and also, if I remember aright, by the Education Commission, I believe, of 1904 or so, that agricultural education should be better arranged for, and it is necessary that we should do away with the way in which it is at present being done, and we should teach boys how agricultural education can be made paying.

Sir, Bengal is pre-eminently an agricultural province. But the yield per bigha of land is decreasing day by day, because the cultivator does not know how to manure his land or how to reap two crops in a year, or how to save his plants from disease, or how to sow a fresh crop in the event of failure of one sort of crop. A knowledge of improved methods of agriculture is beneficial not only to the cultivators or zamindars, but to all. That being so, I do not understand why any time should be lost in establishing agricultural schools. As the scheme I have put forward is a very modest one, I implore the Government to accept it. Several speakers have stated that agricultural schools should be started not only at Rajshahi, but in every division, and, if possible, one in each district, and that agriculture should be made a part of the general education of the people. The people have been suffering much and the want of vocational education is keenly felt, so I say that no time should be lost in giving effect to this proposal.

A division was then taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ali, Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir.
Ali, Mr. Syed Ertan.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Barton, Mr. H.
Basu, Rai Bahadur Nalinaksha.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Birla, Babu Chaneshyamdas.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Chaudhuri, Sir Ashutosh.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Faroqui, Mr. K. G. M.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Ghatak, Rai Sahib Nilmani.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilall Singh.
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath.
Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.
Travers, Mr. W. L.

NOES.

Afzal, Khan Bahadur Hawabzada K. M.
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Muhammad.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr C. H.
Campbell, Mr. J.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cochran, Mr. A.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Donald, Mr. J.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Marr, Mr. A.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Rae, Mr. W. R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 62 and the Noes 37, the motion was carried.

Jute Cultivation.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: "This Council recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken to impress upon the cultivators the necessity of restricting the sowings of jute and increasing correspondingly the area for cultivation of paddy in the ensuing season."

In rising to move this resolution, I may at once tell this House that it is not the offspring of animus. I must frankly confess that I am not inspired by any spirit of hostility to the manufacturers in doing so. I do not approach you as the advocate of the middlemen. I stand before you to-day to champion the cause of the inarticulate peasantry, to plead for the voiceless millions of Bengal, the enormous country population dependent upon agriculture, steeped in poverty and immersed in the struggle for existence.

In normal times a highly industrialised country like England gives 58 persons out of every hundred to industry and only 8 to agriculture. But India gives 71 per cent. to agriculture and only 12 to industry. It must be remembered that Bengal with her 45 millions has about the same population as the British Isles. I am sure the accuracy of these statements will not be seriously challenged. This is the testimony of Mr Montagu and His Excellency the Viceroy of India. In fact 208 millions depend directly upon agriculture in India.

The charge has often been levelled, and not without some reason however, against the intelligensia of our country that they have so far shown insufficient interest in the peasant and labouring population The imputation may not be warrantable, but it must be candidly confessed that not even the most ardent and enthusiastic lover of the country can soothe himself into the complacent belief that it has been

possible for him to consecrate himself to the improvement of the economic condition of the peasantry. The late lamented Mr. Gokhale had appreciated the magnitude of the task which needed a whole army of devoted missionaries. Here is an opportunity for us to vindicate our reputation, to acquit ourselves of the imputation. Speaking of the raiyat, Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford had recorded their deliberate opinion "that until it is made clear that his interests can safely be left in his own hands or that the Legislative Councils represent and consider his interests, we must retain power to protect him." It cannot be doubted that they were conveying a message—a beneficent message of hope and sympathy—to the raiyats. I rest my resolution upon this declaration of policy. There would have been no occasion for pressing my resolution upon this Council, if the peasantry knew their interest and were capable of protecting themselves. Before dealing with the merits of the resolution I hope you will permit me to trace the early history of the jute trade in Bengal. The recorded exports rose from 364 cwts. in 1828 to 11,800 cwts. in 1832-33. In 1882-83 the exports of raw jute amounted to 517,450 tons and the figures reached 768,000 tons in 1913-14. The first power mill was started at Serampur in 1855. The production of the mills in 1919 was about 3,000 tons a day

I feel no hesitation in saying that the resolution embodies a modest demand for justice. No one can shut his eyes to the fact that the price of raw jute has steadily depreciated and reached such a level as to warrant State intervention. It would be interesting to notice the fluctuations in the average price of the raw material since 1913, the year before Europe was plunged into the great war.

1913	...	...	Rs. 10 to Rs. 11 per maund.
1914	...	...	„ 4 to „ 5 at the raiyat's door.
1915	...	...	„ 7 to „ 5 „ „
1916	...	...	„ 8 to „ 9 „ „
1917	...	...	„ 5 at the raiyat's door.

It was in 1917 that the mills not only bought their normal requirements but they bought largely in excess of their immediate requirements to the utmost capacity of storing accommodation of which they could get hold. They not only glutted their own godowns but filled hired godowns with purchased jute. The Director of Statistics pointed out that the net profits of the mills had increased from the index of 100 in 1914 to the index of 570 in 1917. These were the pronouncements of the Hon'ble Mr. J. G. Cumming, C.S.I., C.I.E., in 1918 in the Council Chamber of Bengal. The year 1918-19 was one of unparalleled prosperity for the Indian jute mills. The total value of the exported manufactures exceeded 35 million pounds sterling. Of private shipments, Australia, the United States, Chile, Java and Indo-China were the best customers for bags, and for cloth the United States, the

Argentine, the United Kingdom and Canada. The consumption by mills would have reached 6 million bales of jute in 1918-19 if they had not resorted to short-time working. The average price of raw jute in 1920-21 has dropped to Rs. 5 per maund. What is the root cause of this depression? The reason is not far to seek. It is because the production has been considerably in excess of the demand. In the language of the Hon'ble Mr. J. G. Cumming, "the low price to the ratyats was due to the fact that the supply of raw jute was greater than the demand." I need not therefore labour the point any further.

What is the present position of the jute trade in Bengal? The following comparative table will be found to be illuminating:—

	Lakhs of bales		Lakhs of bales
Mills' last year's stock carried forward on 30th of June 1920	39	Mills' requirement for 6 months from 1st July to 31st December 1920 on the basis of 6 days' working and from 1st July to 30th of June 1921 on the basis of 5 days' working ...	57
Mills' stock up-country about	16	Shipment from 1st July up to 31st December 1920 about...	14½
Government forecast, 1920-21, about	60	Estimated export to different ports by shippers from 1st January to 30th of June 1921 about	10½
Last year's unsold stocks in the hands of ratyats and middlemen about	17	Country's requirement, about	5
	122		
Less ...	87		
	35		87

Next season's estimated requirements of the mills would be very nearly 50 lakhs on the basis of 5 days' working from 1st July 1921 to 30th of June 1922. The shipments would amount to about 25 lakhs at the most liberal estimate—the total figure being thus 75 lakhs. If we deduct the last year's surplus of 35 lakhs from the said 75 lakhs, we arrive at the figure of 40 lakhs which really represents the extent of the production of jute which is necessary for meeting all requirements in the ensuing season. It is therefore quite obvious that the next year's production must be limited to about 40 lakhs bales in order that the supply and demand may fairly balance each other and the growers may get a legitimate price for the raw material at their door. It is also essential that the average annual acreage under jute cultivation should be narrowed down from 28 to 15 lakhs. It would be profitable for the tiller to utilise the remaining uncultivated acres for production of paddy. It is a well-known fact that every bigha of land yields 4 to 5 maunds in jute and 6 maunds in rice. Calculating the value of the yield, we find that the tiller makes Rs. 25 at Rs. 5 per maund out of jute and Rs. 42 at Rs. 7 per maund out of rice from every bigha of land.

This being so, it may be said, as it has often been said before, that the cultivator has the remedy in his own hands. No one can deny that he has. But the question is, are the peasantry of Bengal sufficiently well-equipped to exercise the remedy? Do they possess the capacity to master the complexities of the problem and to embark on a campaign for regulating the prices to their advantage by limiting the production? Are they really capable of rallying their scattered forces? Are they really able to take care of themselves? This is the plain issue before us. I wish they were. But the fact remains that the peasantry really needs not only sympathy but protection. Platitudes and pious wishes will not avail. The situation must be faced. The agriculturists, the voiceless millions, destitute, helpless and miserable, have the right to demand State intervention. I appeal to the Government on behalf of that people. I beseech for justice for them. I am sure my appeal will not fall upon heedless and unsympathetic ears. If the Government will yet steel their hearts against them, which I hope will not be the case, if nothing will stir them to sympathy for them, I would make an earnest prayer to Government—to the Minister in charge—to have pity on them. The Government are charged with a sacred duty to protect and defend the helpless, the ignorant, and the poor. Can they shirk this duty—this plain and unmistakable duty which they have imposed upon themselves? There are a thousand and one ways in which the Government can carry out this resolution, if they are only prepared to shoulder their own responsibility. I am sure the Government will rise to the occasion and demonstrate to the country that they really do feel for the distressed cultivators of Bengal.

Before concluding I may invite the attention of the House to the sympathetic utterance of His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay at Serajganj in the course of a speech delivered on the 29th August, 1919. His Excellency observed that since there was no doubt that the price of jute had gone down, the cultivators should reduce sowings of jute and increase correspondingly the area under cultivation of paddy.

With these words I commend this resolution to the acceptance of the House.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I quite appreciate the spirit in which the member for the Mahajan Sabha has moved the resolution. It is undoubtedly a fact that the price of jute for the past few years has not been just as high as formerly and in consequence the growers of this particular crop have been rather badly hit: in some cases the price fetched by jute has not even covered the expenses of producing the same. Mr. Roy undoubtedly thinks that by restricting the cultivation of jute he would be able to secure an adequate price for it. So far this is all right. Because, after all, what Mr. Roy intends to attain, by working along the lines suggested in his resolution, is to regulate the supply according to the demand. Mr. Roy, however, in this connection, overlooks one important factor. Mr. Roy is not quite correct in attributing the cause of

this fall in the price of jute to the simple economic doctrine of demand and supply. I will not bore the House by quoting lengthy statistics. I would place before the House one or two important figures of one year only. In the year 1918-19, the total outturn of jute was about 320 lakhs maunds, and the total export of jute from Bengal in the same year in raw material and gunny bags was about 390 lakhs maunds. Besides, there was undoubtedly a large quantity locally consumed. Thus it is quite plain that the supply of jute far exceeded the demand. Therefore it would be apparent to the House that it is not the question of demand and supply alone which regulates the price of jute. It is rather the strong combination of the buyers of jute, which controls its price. What, therefore, is really wanted is a strong combination of the growers of jute. It is up to the big *mahajans*, whom Mr. Roy represents in this House, to devise means which would enable the growers of jute to obtain an adequate price for their produce. The plan suggested by Mr. Roy is hardly satisfactory and I strongly object to its adoption either by the Government or my countrymen.

Sir, I would be brief. My objection is based on one broad principle I object to the policy of Government interference in such matters; it is always a sound economic policy to leave matters to adjust themselves in the natural course. If Government once takes upon itself to advise cultivators as to what crops they should grow and how much they should grow each of the thousands of different varieties of crops, the Government would have to set up a huge department which shall have to ascertain what would be the demand of each of these crops, both locally and in foreign countries. Then the Government shall have to take up the rôle of a prophet to foretell such events of nature as rainfall, storms, floods, epidemics and so forth. I hardly expect that the Government is prepared at present to take upon itself such heavy responsibilities.

Then, Sir, there is another important point. Before the middlemen, whose interests Mr. Roy has apparently in view in moving this resolution, are allowed to dictate to our raiyats in these matters through the official channels, the views of the raiyats as well as of their landlords should be definitely ascertained. On behalf of the landlords, I should say at once that we do not think that things have come to such a pass when we should practice non-co-operation with the customers of one of our staple crops, on the lines suggested by Mr. Roy. I undoubtedly deprecate the combination of our customers which has forced down the price and I would whole-heartedly welcome any concerted action on our part which would help us to break the combination without causing further economic disturbance in the prevailing conditions. We ought to remember that replacement of our jute cultivation by paddy would not only seriously affect the price of rice and thereby reduce the income of our raiyats, but would throw out of employment a large number of day labourers in the country, whose services are utilised in producing

jute. It should be borne in mind that even a quarter of their number would not be required for producing rice.

Before I sit down I would draw the attention of the House to the fact that Mr. Roy wants to curtail the area under jute cultivation for only one year. Well, Sir, Mr. Roy might have been inspired by best of motives and perhaps he sincerely wants to help the cultivators, but I really fail to understand how by reducing only one year's outturn he expects to help the ryots. Of course, I doubt not that this would considerably help the middlemen to dispose of the stock in their hands, most probably at a considerable profit. I, Sir, as a grower of jute would strongly object to make any sacrifice for the middlemen. Sir, it is the middlemen, who are our real enemies, and the sooner these sharks disappear, the better for the country.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: I rise to a point of order. Is my friend entitled to make any reference to the middlemen?

The PRESIDENT: There are no middlemen here.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: I do not defend the middlemen.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: I rise to a point of order. I object to the use of the word "sharks" in connection with middlemen.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I oppose the resolution and I appeal to the House to reject it.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: I find that the member who has just sat down has absolutely been working on what is exactly my own opinion on this subject, and I feel that much of what I could say, he has said for me.

I would call the attention of the Council to the fact, however, that we have been in active existence for about one week and during that time we have had on the agenda 26 resolutions and amendments. Out of that 10 have been withdrawn, 7 carried and 9 lost; that goes to show that the resolutions have not had sufficient consideration before they were brought forward and little to recommend them, and much of the time of the House has been wasted; I would place back this resolution in that category.

If we go back to the facts as regards jute, we find that in 1827 we began to export jute; then we find a very rapid increase in the cultivation of the fibre in Bengal, Northern Bengal and Assam. After all, the cultivation of jute in Bengal is a small affair; it amounts to 6½ per cent. as against 56½ per cent. of rice. As regards the effects of jute cultivation on the price of rice, if you will take the figures you will find that in Bengal, for example, we have—

For rice	22 million acres.
For jute	2½ million acres.
For other food-grains	2½ million acres
For oilseeds . .	2½ million acres.
For tobacco	½ million acres.
For sugarcane . .	½ million acres.

Supposing we assume, for the sake of argument, that jute has reduced the area under rice cultivation; we want to see how the reduction of the growth of jute will help to raise the area under cultivation of rice. The question is, would the cultivators grow jute, or would they not grow it? Raiyats like to grow jute because it pays them better; they will continue to grow it if left alone; they make more out of it than rice. Jute is an early crop and is harvested at a time when the raiyats are, as a rule, particularly in need of money—when they are hard up: further, jute can be cut in an emergency at an early stage bringing relief immediately to the raiyat. Rice, on the other hand, takes long to grow and the price realised for it barely meets their demands.

I wonder what would happen if this resolution were passed by the House and Government advised the raiyats to grow rice. Supposing the rice crop turned out a failure, could you blame the raiyats if they then abused the Government for giving them that advice and then asked to be compensated for their loss? The raiyats will blame Government for interference with their cultivation. This is a matter which must be treated by the head and not by the heart. I wonder if it is really the consideration of the raiyat only that has caused this resolution to be brought forward. We know for certain that this resolution, if it is passed, will be of considerable value to those who are holding large stocks of jute and gunnies. I would ask the mover of this resolution to take Adam Smith's (a great authority on Economics) advice. He lays special stress on the fact that natural liberty supersedes Governmental interference.

We are not wanting in sympathy for the raiyats. We all know that our wealth comes from the land and all right-thinking people respect those toiling millions, men, women and children, who are toiling on, wrestling with nature to extract an existence from the earth—unsophisticated simple men and women. All right-thinking individuals wish to protect them from being exploited and used by agitators, and I fear if you pass this resolution, that is what will happen.

Now, Sir, reference has been made to the middlemen, and the mover of this resolution has given us a long string of figures showing the profits of the mills. Did he mean to infer that these large profits made by the mills were the reason of the small prices paid for jute? If so, he is entirely wrong, for the war played the most important part in both the profits of the mills and the low price of jute, because exports were interfered with; the question is purely one of economics. He draws a very pathetic figure of the poor raiyats, a class of people that we are all in sympathy with; but what is wanted to improve their lot is education, and I am very pleased that a member has moved the previous resolution on the subject of agricultural education. The raiyats want to be educated as to the kind of crop to grow. Jute is a more profitable crop to them than rice. Jute will cost Rs. 7 a maund; if the jute is good jute, you

can get a higher price for it. The raiyats require to be educated to grow a better class of jute; therefore, it is up to us to educate the raiyat to improve the crop.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I feel it a great privilege to speak on this matter, because the question was partially discussed by me in the old Council. I brought to the notice of the Council the fact that it was necessary that some advice be given by Government for the cultivation of paddy in areas which were abandoned by the raiyats. I held that view, and therefore I think it necessary to support this resolution. No doubt there are difficulties in the way. The law of supply and demand is a factor to be reckoned with The resolution is in a very modest form. It says that the advice of Government is necessary for the purpose of inducing raiyats to abandon the sowings of jute for the purpose of the cultivation of paddy The resolution only asks Government to be an adviser, and that they should impress upon the raiyats the necessity of the matter. It should be left entirely to the raiyats to consider the matter and if they think fit and proper they may abandon jute sowings and take to paddy. It is a matter of general complaint in agricultural areas that paddy cultivation is on the decrease, and jute cultivation is on the increase It depends on the efforts of the landlords; if they think fit and proper they can induce the raiyats to take up the cultivation of paddy on a larger scale. Facts and figures are more eloquent than speeches, and I notice that facts and figures have been brought before the House and they show that the cultivation of paddy is decreasing. The problem is to be solved. I therefore, think it to be my duty to support the resolution, notwithstanding the difficulties which have been pointed out by the member representing the landlords.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: Though I recognise the good intentions which have actuated the mover of this resolution and others who have supported it—and no one can be more desirous than I am to see a substantial and permanent decrease in the price of rice—I must oppose the resolution. The area brought under jute cultivation in any year depends primarily on natural and economic causes. First, there is the question of rainfall If it is unfavourable at the time of ploughing and sowing, want of sufficient moisture may throw large tracts out of jute cultivation. On the other hand exceptionally favourable rainfall may induce the cultivators to extend the area on which they normally grow jute. But the cultivator will mainly look to the profit which he will derive from the cultivation of jute as compared with the profit which he might obtain from the cultivation of rice or any other crop. If, after allowing for the extra labour and cost involved in the steeping and rotting of jute, he thinks it will be a more profitable crop to him than rice, then if his land is equally suitable for either crop, he will be inclined to grow a greater quantity

of jute and a smaller quantity of paddy. If, on the other hand, he considers that rice will be the more profitable, he will put the greater area under that crop. Thus in 1906-07 the price of jute was high and, as a result, there was a considerable increase in the area brought under jute in 1907 and 1908. In the latter year there was a heavy fall in the price of jute, which continued for the next two years and was accompanied by a rise in the price of rice. This was reflected in a decrease of roughly a million acres in the area under jute cultivation in 1909 and 1910, as compared with 1908. A rise in the price of jute in 1910 and 1911, coupled with a fall in the price of rice, was followed by an appreciable increase in the area under jute cultivation. The collapse of the jute market after the outbreak of war in 1914 resulted in a decrease of over 800,000 acres in the area under jute cultivation in 1915, compared with the previous year. These figures support my contention that the area which the cultivator puts under jute depends on the profit which he expects to derive from it.

In my opinion, Sir, Government would be exceeding its legitimate functions if it attempted, by putting pressure on the raiyat, to interfere in this matter. It would be no more justified in telling the raiyat what crops to grow than it would be justified in telling a shopkeeper what goods he must stock. It will, I presume, be admitted by everyone that the cultivator is entitled to consider his own interests first and to grow the crop from which he expects to derive most profit. I do not agree with the mover in his estimate of the raiyat's abilities. The average cultivator, though his education may be deficient, is a shrewd and intelligent man, fully capable of looking after his own interests, and he stands in no need of advice from Government in a matter of this kind.

Further, I hold that Government by interfering in this matter would not only be exceeding its legitimate functions but would be taking on itself a very dangerous responsibility, because the results of its intervention may be far-reaching and cannot be clearly foreseen.

To take the case of jute, the raiyat *primâ facie* may expect a higher price for his smaller quantity of jute, if he so restricts cultivation that the demand exceeds the supply. But this Government, though they may influence the supply in the manner suggested, have no power to influence the demand. It depends on many factors, such as the existing stocks of raw jute held by the mills, the stock of gunnies and the demand for them in the markets of the world. It may be that the mills, if they are carrying large stocks of raw jute, could meet a shortage of supply by reducing the demand and so keep prices down. If this occurs, the raiyat will not be compensated for having less jute to sell by getting a higher price for it. It is equally impossible to foresee what the consequences of the proposed action would be on the jute mills and jute presses, which, in 1919, gave employment to no less than 284,000

workers. It would also probably affect the jute export-tax, which, in 1919-20, yielded 2 crores and 88 lakhs of rupees to the revenues of the country.

I know, Sir, that many people fear that jute cultivation is extending at the cost of rice cultivation and that the commercial crop is ousting the food crop. But figures show that this is not the case. In 1907, the area under jute cultivation was 3,482,900 acres. Last year it was only 2,205,000 acres or 1,277,000 acres less than in 1907. In the six years, from 1907 to 1912, the area under jute exceeded 3 million acres three times. In the last six years it has never exceeded 2½ million acres.

It is also generally assumed that a decrease in the area under jute cultivation means an increase in the area under rice. But this assumption is not borne out by the facts. Thus in 1918 there was a decrease in the area under jute, as compared with 1917, but there was at the same time a decrease in the area under rice. In 1919, there was an increase in the area under each crop, as compared with 1918, and last year there was a substantial decrease in the area under each crop. It therefore by no means follows that a decrease in the area under jute connotes an increase in the area under rice.

In 1912, Sir, the Indian Jute Mills Association urged the creation of a special department of Government for the purpose of supervising the extension of jute cultivation in Bengal. In 1914 the Dundee Chamber of Commerce asked that Government should use its endeavours to encourage the extension of jute cultivation. On both occasions the Government of Bengal refused to take direct action for the extension of the area under jute, on the ground, firstly, that the area under any particular crop must depend on the profit which the cultivator expects to derive from that crop, as compared with the profit which he might derive from any other crop, and secondly, that Government would be exceeding its legitimate functions if it brought any pressure to bear on cultivators in this matter. I adhere to that attitude now, and I ask the Council to reject this resolution.

Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: I beg to oppose the resolution before the House. The resolution itself makes a recommendation, but adduces no argument in support of it. It is difficult to understand why the freedom of the cultivator to cultivate the crop he likes and finds profitable, should be interfered with and the machinery of the Government should be set in motion to "impress upon him the necessity of restricting the sowings of jute." Where does that necessity, one is tempted to ask, exist save in the imagination of economic oracles, who speak without facts and figures? Jute growing is confined almost entirely to the Ganges-Brahmaputra delta in the Presidency of Bengal and the province of Assam and the economic importance of the fibre may be

judged from the fact that in 1913-14 the total value of raw jute and jute manufactures exceeded 60 crores of rupees. Yet we read in the "Statement exhibiting the Moral and Material Progress of India in 1919," the production is far short of the demand. Under the circumstances, it would be disastrous to ask the cultivators to abandon jute for any other crop.

I am aware, Sir, that an agitation is going on to decrease the area under jute which has increased by 400 per cent. during the last 40 years, because, consequent on the war, the value of jute has come down a little. But that was unavoidable. The following list of jute-spinning and weaving mills in countries outside India is approximately correct:—

United Kingdom	30
Germany	36
Austria-Hungary	17
France	32
Italy	25
Belgium	23
America	16
Russia	7
Sweden	5
Denmark	2
Switzerland	2
Holland	2
Brazil	2
Norway	1
Rio	1
Argentine ...	1
Total ..	202

Thus, it will be seen that out of a total of 202 mills, 60 are situated in Germany, Austria and Russia. Before the war, Germany, where the fibre is used in the manufacture of blankets, cheap carpets, etc., was, next to the United Kingdom, India's best customer for raw jute. Her normal requirements were in the neighbourhood of 800,000 bales annually, and 250,000 bales went to Austria-Hungary. So when the war broke out, two of our most important customers could not take jute and, owing to war conditions in 1914-15, exports to all destinations, except to Italy and Spain, showed a considerable decline. The market was glutted and prices came down. Nor was this all. India suffered a sacrifice to meet the requirements of the Allied armies. The contract prices entered into between the Calcutta mills and the London War Office in 1915 for the supply of bags for the Allied armies remained unchanged for three years although the commercial prices had greatly increased. Such are some of the reasons why during the last six or seven years jute has not fetched a

very high price. But is that any reason why now, when normal conditions are returning and Germany is again in the market for jute, we should ask the cultivator to neglect the crop which pays him more for a crop which pays him less? It will be false patriotism, and worse economy to do so. I come from East Bengal where I have lived within sight of jute when it was growing, and within scent of it when it was rotting, the scent being not exactly that of the honeysuckle. I know how jute is a source of great profit to the cultivators and supports in addition something like a quarter of a million factory operatives and their dependents. At present there are about fifty mills on the river Hooghly with about 40,000 looms worked by Indian labourers. Those of us who have taken the trouble of studying the condition of the country, know how jute has enriched the people. It has enriched the cultivator, whom it has freed from indebtedness to the *mahajan*. It has enriched the labourer, for the rates in the neighbourhood of Dacca and Serajganj have recently been as high as a rupee a day. It has benefited a vast variety of middlemen and traders. In other words, it has been of immense value to the province and the people.

If now, the area under jute is contracted, and prices artificially raised, what will be the result? Let me quote what the Chairman of the Indian Jute Mills Association said in 1915:—"Whatever else the Germans may be, they are resourceful and persistent; they already show signs of chafing under the excessively high prices that have, in recent years, ruled for a commodity whose principal claim to popularity is its cheapness. Raise the price still further, and you may be sure that the first effect will be to stimulate the search for a substitute, and one of these days some German will find one, and your industry will be in danger of following the path of indigo."

There is a limit beyond which prices cannot be raised. And it would be the height of folly to attempt to raise the price of jute enormously. That would mean our losing our customers. The Agricultural Year Book of 1919 shows how, if the endeavours of the Department of Agriculture in introducing better jute are successful, it will result in an increased output of about 12 lakhs of bales, worth at Rs. 40 per bale, nearly 5 crores of rupees. Instead of attempting to restrict the cultivation of jute in Bengal, I would suggest encouraging the cultivators to use better seeds and thereby get a better return.

With these words, Sir, I beg to oppose the resolution.

Sir ASHUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I intend to make a few observations. In spite of the moving references made by the mover of this resolution, I think that we ought not to accept this resolution. Government interference in these matters is undesirable; and we ought to give credit to the peasant for knowing his own interests. It cannot be denied for one moment that these people are intelligent and they know what to do for themselves, and they do not need Government to tell

them that they had better sow paddy instead of jute. Having regard to the resolution passed by this Council last week in this matter, if they grow paddy which is not to be exported from the country, it seems to me to be a somewhat ridiculous suggestion.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: While I quite appreciate the feeling of sympathy for the poor agriculturists, which must have induced the mover of this resolution to bring forward this motion before the House, I think that, if analysed, it means that these poor agriculturists should be encouraged to extend their paddy cultivation and to restrict their jute cultivation. No doubt, we are apt to put down these agriculturists as rather illiterate people not having much intelligence in their brains, but so far as these agriculturists are concerned, minus the application of scientific improvements, I believe we have yet to learn many things from them. Well, they know better what crop will give them a better yield, and for us to dictate from this House that they might do this or that will only show that we have got some sort of sinister motive. Then, that ought to be a good reason why we should not lightly pass this resolution here. We ought not to give them a chance of crying out "Save us from our friends in the Council." From my own personal experience—I have been studying this question for some years, having often had occasion to travel through the jute-growing districts of Mymensingh and Tippera—my idea is that under certain circumstances jute-growing is more paying than paddy-growing; and, in these circumstances, there is no reason why we should interfere with this natural selection on the part of the cultivators. That being so, I oppose this resolution and hope that the House will not lightly pass it.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: The other day we passed a resolution to stop the export of rice in order to cheapen it for the cultivators. We wanted then that the cultivators should have sufficient paddy for their maintenance throughout the year, and to-day we are going to restrict their jute cultivation, which is their mainstay for paying their rents, and meeting other needs. If we are going to restrict it, we would throw them in confusion. Already by the stoppage of export of rice from India and other circumstances, its price has come down; and now if we are going to restrict jute cultivation, it will deprive the cultivators of the power to defray their expenses for necessaries besides food. Therefore, my suggestion is that before we ask or recommend to Government to interfere with the cultivators in their cultivation of jute, we should think twice before we pass it in this House. I think that it is not the business of ours here to dictate anything to the cultivators. They will adapt themselves to the circumstances, and the law of supply and demand will give them the idea which course they ought to resort to; and therefore my suggestion is that the restriction on jute cultivation would bring a disastrous result on the cultivators as at

present circumstanced. Of course, there is no doubt that there is a dullness in the jute market. Perhaps, the exporters of jute may have combined to bring down the price of jute; but it is the business of this House, it is the business of the millionaires, to come together and to devise means how to combat this combination amongst the jute exporters. It is the business of our Hon'ble Ministers, who have given in charity Rs. 16,000 each annually, to make it a nucleus of finding the capital which would bring relief to the cultivators at a time when there is a dullness in the jute market. If that be the nucleus which will pay the interest of a large capital, it may be worked on a co-operative basis and will give relief to the cultivators when they are in need and they will not be compelled to sell their jute at a time when its price is very low; this relief will enable them to sell the jute at the best of seasons at a better price. That is the way in which we ought to move in this matter. Of course, it is well known that necessity is the mother of invention, and I hope that the intelligent minds which have come together here will find some means of combating this problem of the combination of the jute exporters and others who have brought down the price of jute. I, therefore, oppose this resolution.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: I beg to move that the question be now put.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I beg to second the motion.

The motion that the question be now put was put and agreed to.

The PRESIDENT then put the question.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: I ask for leave to withdraw my motion

The PRESIDENT: You cannot withdraw it now You should have done that before I put the question.

The motion was then lost.

Water-Hyacinth.

Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: "This Council recommends to Government that they be pleased to appoint, forthwith, a commission composed of official and non-official members under some scientific experts, such as Sir J. C. Bose or Sir P. C. Roy, to devise ways and means for removing the scourge of the water-hyacinth and to combat it successfully, before any legislative action is taken, as recommended by the District Boards' Conference."

I presume, the magnitude of the evil, to which pointed attention is drawn by this resolution, is known to the Government, and certain

sporadic efforts have been made in the past, to deal with the problem. But I believe the terrible nature of the "pest" is not, and cannot be, appreciated by those who have had no opportunity of seeing with their own eyes, the rapidity with which the scourge is spreading and developing itself into a serious menace to the health, life, and I may add, the very civilisation itself, in those tracts, where it has got a lodgment. The inroads of savage armies, through the frontiers, the incursions of a Timurlane, carrying fire and sword into the country, were nothing compared to the inroads of those tiny plants, floating down the East Bengal rivers, with beautiful lilac flowers, very attractive and seductive in their appearance. Sir, during a tour throughout a great part of my own district of Bakarganj, in October and November last, I noticed how the waterways, creeks, canals and small rivulets had been clogged and choked up, making navigation even by small *dingis*, crafts and country-boats, impossible. The growth of the plant is phenomenal. Within the municipality of Barisal of which I have the honour of being the chairman, the tanks having outlets and connection with the rivers and tidal-khals, have been overspread with the plant within a few days; and even costly and careful clearance, twice within a year, was not able to arrest its growth. Up till now, it has been found impossible to eradicate it. Though big tidal-rivers, such as the Brahmaputra, the Ganges, and their big tributaries, have not been choked up yet, I think the time is not far off when navigation through them will be seriously affected, unless immediate steps be taken to exterminate the scourge. Sir, it is known to many belonging to this House, that through a great part of East Bengal, nay the entire deltaic area, transport and communication are carried on, only through these waterways, which our Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government said the other day had great potentialities. Their stoppage means stagnation of the social, moral and economic life of the country, and death to civilisation. There are no railways, no lorries, no carts and no other means of conveyance, save and except the country-boats. To agriculturists, the menace is no less serious. I have been told, and have also seen with my own eyes, that during flood-tides these plants get into fields and within a few days, by fast multiplication, cover them entirely to the destruction of rice and other crops rooted in the earth. Even when the agriculturists, with infinite labour, dislodge them and throw them into the nearest tidal-khals, they come back with the flood-tide, quite smiling and radiant and recapture their lost ground. It is quite a struggle of Sisyphus to contend against them. It has been said that these plant-pests are prolific breeding-grounds for mosquitoes, and that malaria has overtaken many places where it was unknown before. I remember to have read in some papers, that when the plant begins to flower, it throws out effluvia which are detrimental to health, bringing on influenza and other diseases. In all conscience, the evil is of the first magnitude. If East Bengal, the granary of the province

and hitherto the healthiest portion of it, is being rendered desolate by the bringing in of malaria by this plant, I don't know where we shall stand. I omitted to mention one fact, that even fish die out in tanks and *jhils* overgrown with this noxious herb.

The next question is, how to combat the evil? No doubt our Government has not been entirely unmindful of the problem. It was once suggested, that when collected, it can be used as "fodder." But I have seen cattle browsing on some portions of the plant very reluctantly and casually—perhaps for want of better food. Next comes the idea of its commercial exploitation. Experiments by the Department of Agriculture were undertaken to ascertain its value as a manure or fertilizer. The results hitherto obtained have been very unsatisfactory. According to some it contains 95 per cent of moisture and, according to others, 75 per cent. However, the quantity of potash obtainable from its ash after burning is so small, that it is nobody's worth while to look to its commercial value. The Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India says: "It is to be hoped that the possibility of utilisation of this pernicious weed will not lead to a *laissez-faire* policy with regard to its spread. Its extermination and not its commercial exploitation is to be aimed at. The efforts to exploit it commercially, by Messrs. Shaw, Wallace & Co of this city, offering Rs. 4 per unit of potash, landed in Calcutta, have proved abortive.

In reply to a few unstarred questions, put by my friend and colleague, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, of Tippera, the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Departments of Agriculture and Public Works, admitted that steps hitherto taken have not been sufficient to check the spread of the plant, and that the question of what further action should be taken to combat the spread of the plant is now under the consideration of Government. I understand that there was a conference of the District Board authorities, and that the only conclusion they could arrive at with regard to this problem was to ask the Government to legislate. Sir, we all know that the provincial legislature of Burma passed a Water-hyacinth Act, namely, the Burma Act No. 1 of 1917. What has been its effect? Has it succeeded in rooting out the evil, even partially? I don't think it has. By the Act presence of water-hyacinth was declared to be a "public nuisance." Provision was made for issuing notices upon owners and occupiers of places, growing hyacinth, to root them out and, on their failure to do so, it was to be done by public bodies, costs being recoverable as "arrears of revenue" from owners and occupiers. Failure to destroy was also penalised. Then what about the methods of destruction? They were to be prescribed by rules. There lies the rub. Hasty legislation is no remedy. Without pointing out a feasible method for destruction, is it fair to legislate? I think not. It is now said that the "pest" is

being carried to Bengal along the rivers of Assam. If this is found to be a fact, it is necessary that steps should be taken to arrest its progress, at the source, at any rate before it reaches the plains of Bengal. In South America, its native home, Florida, Australia and other countries, where these plants abound, the people grapple with the problem, by arranging to throw them into the salt water of the seas, as saline water is understood to be uncongenial to their growth and also to destroy them. So it appears to me, that the problem has also its scientific aspect, and has to be studied both botanically and chemically. Anyhow, an organised endeavour should be made without further loss of time to devise means and ways for the extermination of the pest in consultation and collaboration with scientific experts. No money and no pains should be spared to check their depredations, which are likely to desolate one of the most fertile parts of the country. A long, laborious and costly struggle, which is really a struggle for very existence itself, has to be continued for years. It will be a tremendous fight with Nature herself. I am not at all particular about the personnel of the proposed commission. The names of two eminent scientists have been mentioned by way of suggestion merely. I hope the Government will accept the resolution, without dividing the House, on a matter of such urgent public importance.

Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA ROY Bahadur: I have very great pleasure in supporting the resolution moved by Babu Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta. At the last District Board Conference we had some discussion about the desirability of taking means to eradicate water-hyacinth. Lately I have made a tour in the interior of my district and I saw with my own eyes what a terrible nuisance this water-hyacinth has become in the river Bhairab passing through the Meherpur subdivision in the district of Nadia. I am afraid, unless something is done to eradicate and check the growth of the water-hyacinth, many of the waterways in Bengal will be similarly affected. It was brought to our notice at the last District Board Conference that the water-hyacinth came to Bengal from Assam. The growth here is surprising, however. One weed covers a large area in the water. One plant covers 300 feet of water in the course of a year. It is therefore highly desirable to consult experts as to how to check and eradicate its growth. I, therefore, support this resolution.

Mr. C. MORGAN: I have much pleasure in supporting this resolution and, in doing so, I am very glad indeed to hear from the mover and from the last speaker that the weed has been brought down to Bengal by the rivers of Assam. Since 1910, I have been accused of having brought it to Eastern Bengal. I understand it is called there "Morgan's Folly." As a matter of fact I did bring some plants, curiously enough from Calcutta, and I know myself from what I have seen with my own

eyes that it is one of the greatest pests I have ever seen. The flower is beautiful, and that is all that is beautiful about it. It spreads over paddy-fields and *dhan khets* and simply ruins everything that comes in its way. Now it has grown so bad that it is a question whether steamers will be able to ply over small khals or rivers. I have not the faintest idea as to how it would be possible to eradicate the pest, but I support the resolution and I am sure that something will be done to do away with this pest.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The Government of Bengal have for some years past been fully alive to the serious menace of the water-hyacinth. Efforts have been made both by Government and by local bodies to devise means of combating the spread of the plant, but so far without appreciable effect. I believe that a committee of the kind suggested might collect much useful information and be able to put forward practical proposals for eradicating this pest, and I therefore accept the resolution.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: After the Minister in charge has accepted this resolution, it is not necessary for me to say much. All I can say is that most of the members of this Council are aware that in August, September and October last there was a committee sitting in Calcutta to enquire into the causes of high prices of food-stuffs, and that it transpired in evidence that this water-hyacinth was encroaching upon paddy-fields and cultivable lands, and I will only quote one passage from that report: "We have been informed that in Eastern Bengal water-hyacinth has spread to an alarming extent and has covered many places fit for rice cultivation."

If that be so it is high time that Government should take action with regard to this resolution.

Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: I understand that the Hon'ble Minister in charge has accepted my resolution. In that case, it is hardly necessary for me to say anything in reply.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Infant Mortality.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: "This Council recommends to the Government that a mixed consultative committee of official and non-official medical men and other experts be permanently constituted for adopting measures for the prevention of the increasing rate of child mortality in Bengal."

In moving this resolution I beg to submit that it is very necessary that Government should interfere in this matter. I learn that in Bombay there is a Public Health Association which is active and alert. The Ministry of Madras has appointed a Committee—a consultative permanent committee—with a wide scope of work. If I bring to the notice of the House certain facts and figures, the members will be surprised to see how the rate of mortality—infant mortality—is going up in this province. I have consulted the report of the Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal, and it appears to me that every day infantile death-rate is growing higher I would bring to the notice of the House the figures showing the rate of mortality, and in this connection I cannot help discussing the question of public health; because the two issues are so mixed up together that it is very difficult to eliminate the rate of infant mortality from the rate of adult mortality. I would invite your attention to certain figures. Of course the members of the House are aware that in dealing with these figures, which are indicative of the high rate of mortality, I have to depend upon the figures supplied to us in the report of the Sanitary Commissioner. In his report for the year 1918 the Sanitary Commissioner says that as many as 142 or more than a third of the total number of rural areas in this Presidency returned a death-rate of over 44 per mille during the year against only 9 and 7 during the two preceding years. In the Ramjibanpur area in the Midnapore district, the death-rate was 69·1 per mille, and in the Khirpai area in the same district the death-rate was 56·9 per mille. In the former area deaths due to fever were 62·4 per mille and in the latter area the rate per mille was 55·8. Murshidabad headed the list last year, and in the year under review it was 104·2 against 61·4, the mortality under head "Fever" alone amounting to 78·6. In the Gangi and Karimpur areas in the Nadia district the death-rates were 88·3 and 81·7, respectively. The death-rate in the Falakata area in the Jalpaiguri district was 70·3 to 78·5, Gokoran in the Murshidabad district, Siliguri in the Darjeeling district, Tehatta in the Nadia district and Sujaganj, Hariharpara, Mirzapur and Bharatpur areas in the Murshidabad district returned the same death-rate—70·3 to 78·5. In 22 other areas the death-rate was 60 to 70 per mille; in 49 areas 50 to 60 per mille; in 60 areas 44 to 50 per mille. So on and so forth runs the rate of mortality. It is sad to relate in this connection that in Bengal, out of one lakh of males about 71,000 die before 30, about 85,000 die before 40, and about 93,000 die before 50. Surely there is no other country so physically poor. In support of my specific point of infant mortality I beg to draw the attention of the Council to certain statements of the present Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal. In his article on *Child Welfare*, a work published in July 1917, he has given a table showing the proportion of the total number of infants under one year that died in Bengal in the year 1910, for every 1,000 births. In the Maniktala area infant mortality rose to 505·1 per 1,000 births.

The following table of infant mortality is also taken from Dr. Bentley's article:—

			Infant mortality.	Death-rate per 1,000 births.
1912	...	...	339,779	212·3
1913	...	...	320,662	209·5
1914	...	...	340,012	221·4
1915	...	...	315,700	218·9
1916	...	...	282,407	195·3
1917	...	...	300,514	...
1918	...	...	339,649	...

In 1916, the death-rate in the district of Rangpur was 255·7 and in Calcutta 249·1. In 1915, the death-rate in the Murshidabad district was 290·5 and in Calcutta 287·6; in the Burdwan district 276·1. In the year 1914, the death-rate at Pabna was 282·8.

The number of deaths in Bengal during the last year was 396,000 over births. A death-roll like this is a matter of grave apprehension. But once more to our Sanitary Commissioner's figures on infant mortality in Bengal and I have done with his figures on the present occasion. In his annual official report he says that altogether 339,649 infants died during 1918, as compared with 300,514 and 282,407 during the past two years—the rates amounted to 22·8, 18·5 and 19·5 per cent. of the births. These figures tell their own tale, and I need not dilate upon them. The figures I have already given indicate that it is not decay, but total depopulation of the country that is staring us in the face. It is the very natural instinct of self-preservation to be sure about the future, but in this matter I contemplate the future with horror. It is no exaggeration to say that the swelling tide of infant mortality is driving the people to desperation. I am fully aware that a committee has been appointed by Government consisting of some medical men, other gentlemen and ladies to inquire about it. But as yet their report has not been brought to the notice of the public. Mere writing of reports will not be sufficient. It is necessary that there should be some publicity, some enthusiasm put into the work. I am aware that in the exhibitions at Nator, Faridpur, Calcutta and Howrah, there was a child welfare section. I am also aware of the fact that His Excellency takes keen interest in the matter, but so far as we know, he has not been able to take any steps to check the high mortality which I have described. In this view of the matter I brought to the notice of the House that it is necessary to appoint a committee consisting of experts, ladies and other gentlemen for putting a stop to this high rate of mortality. While I was making my inquiries, I was told that a certain school had been established at Midnapore, where some ladies took steps to train nurses and *dais*. These *dais* were

recruited locally. This is a practical step. So far so good. But, Sir, it is necessary that other practical steps ought to be taken in this connection. If schools of the kind are established, then it would be a certain gain. But nothing satisfactory has yet been done. It appears that union boards have got authority to look after the sanitation of their localities. The district boards have got authority too. But what have they done in this connection? The union boards will say that it would mean fresh taxation and so "we cannot proceed in the matter." Already you are taxing us and you ought to save us from further taxation. There is a network of union boards in several districts—but nothing has been done as yet. Therefore, I thought it necessary to move this resolution for the purpose of getting a permanent consultative body appointed—as in Madras—so that the whole thing may be placed in their hands. This committee would be in a position to advise district boards and union boards and other public bodies as to how to proceed in this matter. If this rate of mortality is not checked, we may expect depopulation of the whole province—nothing less than that. I hope the Minister in charge of Sanitation will come forward to support me in this matter. The Minister of Education once said, when addressing a co-operative society meeting, that the population of the rural areas of Bengal was 42 lakhs, the total population being 45 lakhs. What has been done by Government or by the people to check mortality among these 42 lakhs? The mortality rate is appalling, and in the areas where there are 42 millions of people nothing has been done. The Sanitary Commissioner deputed a Deputy Sanitary Commissioner to inquire into this matter and I have got figures showing that 98 per cent. of the infants suffer from enlarged spleen. If that fact is correct, I have every hope that my resolution will be accepted by the Council and that there will not be one dissentient voice. My resolution is a very modest one. I ask for a committee, and I request the Minister in charge of Sanitation to help me in this matter. He takes a great interest in this matter and we worked together in this connection in the same field. Both of us at one time thought that the matter was of great importance and I hope and trust that he will show his sympathy for the people and the infants of Bengal. With these words I move my resolution.

Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY: I rise to support this resolution which has been moved by Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur. He has quoted statistics of various districts supplied by Health Officers of Municipalities and the general trend of the struggle for existence as revealed by them, is that the death-rate is at present overtaking the birth-rate. We have to grapple with this question. Child welfare is supported on the one hand by decreasing the number of premature births and miscarriages and on the other by adopting means for improving the health and welfare of the new-born infants. It is a very, very satisfactory thing to

notice that people outside the medical profession are taking keen interest in this very important matter. The Rai Bahadur has asked Government to form a committee for adopting measures for the prevention of the increasing rate of child mortality in Bengal. As far as I know there is a child welfare committee already in existence and that committee has done very good work. But I want, Sir, to tell the House that it is all very well to ask Government to do this, that, and other things. The Government has put before us the fact of the high rate of infant mortality in our country and also the great importance of child welfare to the future development of the country. We should not depend on Government entirely. Instead of asking Government to do this, that, and other things, we should ourselves try and do the propaganda work amongst our own people and should not depend on the executive or the Government for our education and material and moral welfare. In my booklet on *Child Welfare* I have already expressed my views on the subject and I may be permitted to place an extract from it before the House:—

The silver lining in this dark cloud is the fact that not less than five-sixths of this appalling death-rate can be controlled and prevented. Let us, then, start a propaganda for the protection of our children, and the regeneration of our country. It is the sacred duty of every thoughtful Indian. It is the best Swadeshi and Nationalist movement. Government has unearthed for us this secret tale of death and misery, let us not withhold our co-operation in this laudable cause. No country and no nation has gained eminence by being solely dependent on the Executive or the Government for its education and material and moral welfare. Our emancipation will not come from outside patronage but from self-help, from within. The prosperous and the rich amongst us spend thousands and lakhs on philanthropic matters, on unorganised charity and on humanitarian movements such as the protection of cows and dumb animals. Those kind-hearted people will certainly contribute generously to alleviate the miseries of slum life, and control the causes of death amongst their brother men, in their own country. Looked at even from the economic stand point, let every capitalist realise that a healthy labourer gives a better value for his money than a weakly, wizened, ill nourished and ill-developed specimen of humanity, troubled with the burden of an unhealthy family, and feeble with the strain of wage-earning and fatherhood or maternity from immature years.

We all know what trouble the gardener takes to make a little seedling grow under the most advantageous surroundings—away from too much heat or light or draught, so that it may develop into a strong and hardy plant, which can bear the inclemency of the weather. Such is the case with the child. Brought up under hygienic and favourable surroundings the child develops into a robust boy and the boy into a robust man. Heredity is a great factor in determining species, but environment very largely shapes the quality of the genus. In the vegetable kingdom we witness how under the influence of altered surroundings the sweet and seedless pomegranates and grapes of Kabul grown in this country alter into sour fruits, full of seeds, hardly fit for eating. Such is the case with children. If children, when they are born, are looked after with care, they will thrive, but they will not do so if they are not properly looked after.

About a year ago, at the request of the Sanitary Commissioı addressed a meeting at the last Child Welfare Exhibition, aı pointed out that from the statistics that the majority of the (rate amongst infants was not due to disease, but to debility, wa food and proper environment of a child. These are the lems with which we are to grapple and I am sure the Ho Minister in charge will do his best to take such steps as are ı.cc in this direction I need not take up the time of the House any : but what I would point out is that we should not be entirely depe on Government and on committees, but we should do our duty by pagating good ideas amongst our countrymen, wherever they are

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: The spirit underlying resolution has our heartiest sympathy One thing, Sir, has s me, and I cannot understand what can be the meaning of tha draw the attention of the mover particularly to that matter. friend has drafted a resolution, in the first line of which he speak: consultative committee I do not know what my friend ı by naming his committee a consultative committee Only two down from that he says that this committee should be asked to measures for the prevention of the increasing rate of child mortal Bengal. Sir, the little knowledge which I have of committees has me very sceptical about the successful working of these committe cannot understand, if a committee is made a consultative comm how that can do any useful work, unless authorized to adopt ce measures and given funds and other facilities for carrying out its successfully. Sir, only about a year ago— as my friend Dr. Suhraw has already hinted there was a committee formed, exactly on the lines which my friend wants now, of which I had the honour of l a member That committee after a good deal of deliberation : certain recommendations. Now those recommendations have been to Government. I, as a member, have as yet not learnt what has the fate of those recommendations, although many months have ali passed away. Then, again, that committee had to encounter the culty that they had no means at their disposal. Whatever recomm ations they made were like those of a consultative committee. what I ask, Sir, my friend to consider is—Is it worth while ha committees, unless the Government want them to do some u work and provide funds and other facilities for that purpose? I that the Minister in charge of this particular portion of Go ment is disposed to accept this resolution. I shall be extre pleased if the Minister will kindly enlighten us as to how this mittee can adopt measures, unless facilities are placed in their If only recommendations have to be made, then if any book on this ject was referred to, the book would be quite enough. Any comm will be able to tell you what measures are absolutely essential fo

purpose of encouraging child welfare, but the difficulty arises when they have to be carried out, and when these things are to be actually introduced into our society. What funds are the Government about to place before that committee, so that their recommendations may be given effect to, so that in the society, from which we come, where the work of child welfare has recently been begun, they are likely to be effective? Sir, in the Calcutta Corporation only for the last six or seven years this work of child welfare has been taken up and a very large sum of money has already been spent over it and for some useful purpose. I understand that the mover of this resolution wants this work to be extended to all Bengal. If any useful work has to be done, a very large sum of money has to be budgeted for the purpose. Will the Minister kindly enlighten us, if he accepts the resolution, whether that money will be forthcoming? Otherwise to form a committee and ask it to make recommendations without giving it facilities for carrying them out, seems to me to be quite an unreasonable and ungenerous proposition. Then I find from what little knowledge I have about the conditions of things in Calcutta that there is enough field for child welfare work in the interior of our country from which most of us come. In Bengal a large number of lives are every day being lost for want of proper attention. We are ashamed to find that there is no organisation—practically none, in spite of all that we might boast of—to look after the children for some time after birth and to attend to the mothers of these children at the time of confinement. Even in Calcutta the arrangement is extremely defective. That being so, who is there so bold as to deny the necessity for work in the mufassal on these lines?

The important point is—what are our resources and what are the facilities which the Government are prepared to place at our disposal, so that this work may be effectively carried out? I am glad that this proposal has been brought before the Council by one who is not a medical man. It shows how outside the medical world there is a strong feeling in this respect, and my friend the Rai Bahadur has done very well by bringing forward at the very first sitting of the Reformed Council this matter for the consideration of the House. I fervently hope, now that the Ministry is presided over by the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, than whom nobody feels more for us, this work of the committee will be useful and that facilities will be placed in its way.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): I must congratulate my friend Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur on bringing forward this matter for the consideration of this House at so early a stage. I will say at once that Government have the deepest sympathy with the scope and object of this resolution. Not only that, but Government are prepared to accept the resolution, subject to a

reservation to which the previous speaker has already referred. My friend the mover started with the suggestion that it should be a consultative committee, but unfortunately for him he has used the word "adopt"—a consultative committee is to be constituted for the purpose of "adopting" measures, etc. Now it is not the business of a consultative committee to adopt measures; they are to recommend measures which Government may or may not accept. I think my friend laid himself open to an attack by my friend over there—Rai Haridhan Dutt Bahadur. What the mover really means is that the committee should recommend and not adopt, and I hope he will accept the amendment which I have suggested. It is to be a sort of advisory and consultative committee which is to make recommendations for the Minister and Government to consider and then, after the committee have made their recommendations, executive action will rest with the Government. I think that is the position which my friend has taken and that is the position which the Government are prepared to accept, and I hope that this will be endorsed by the whole House. Therefore, in accepting this resolution, let it be clearly understood on behalf of Government that it is an advisory body—a body which will recommend measures for the consideration of Government, and the Government, as the supreme executive authority, will give effect to these recommendations as they think fit. I have just been told that Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur accepts the amendment which I have suggested.

The Rai Bahadur says that the rate of infant mortality in the province is increasing. I might also add that it is appalling. My friend has quoted figures from various districts. I will give the annual figures of death-rate in thousands for children for the years 1910 to 1919. I have got these figures collected by the Sanitary Commissioner. They were 199 per thousand in 1910, 195 in 1911, 212 in 1912, 209 in 1913—here the figures show an upward tendency—221 in 1914—the situation is getting worse and worse—218 in 1915—now there is a drop—in 1916, 195; in 1917, 184—the figure again jumps up—in 1918, 228 and in 1919, 228·2. It is quite apparent that the figures are appalling, and it ought to be a matter of the gravest concern for all of us. I think a committee should be appointed for this simple reason that this high rate of mortality is largely associated with the peculiar habits and modes of life of certain sections of the people of this presidency.

I entirely associate myself with the propaganda work to which my friend Dr. Suhrawardy has referred. There ought to be propaganda work: Government are willing to undertake propaganda work and they have allotted funds for the purpose. But what are the people doing and where is the association of the people in this propaganda work? I hope they will come forward and associate themselves with Government in this work of beneficence. My friend, the mover, has observed that the district boards and the local boards should take up this work. Certainly they might be associated with Government. But here, again,

the district boards and local boards suffer from pecuniary difficulties, and if there is any proposal for the imposition of any cess or any tax even for the most necessary purposes, there comes the outcry that the new Government are going to tax the people, which they should not. I deplore this attitude If you want benefits—substantial benefits—in respect of health, in respect of education, in respect of sanitation, you must pay for them. The law of the universe is that nothing can be had in this world without paying for it. We all know how the English people make great sacrifices for local purposes and for local needs. I was on the committee appointed by the Secretary of State for India to investigate the conditions of local institutions in the United Kingdom, with a view to their applicability to Indian conditions. I must express my admiration for the English spirit of civic devotion which dominates these local bodies in providing sanitary and local needs. I ask my countrymen to imitate the English people, and if you cannot do it, at any rate to try to understand the methods that are followed in England and the United Kingdom.

Reference has been made by my friend, Rai Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, to a particular committee, of which he was a member. I am sorry to have to say that that was a somnolent committee, which did very little work. The committee consisted of 16 members. It has been said that the ideal committee consists of three members, one of whom is always sick, the second is always absent and the third does the work. This was apparently not an ideal committee. My friend was a member. When my friend has referred to that matter, I feel it my duty to call attention to the fact that in 12 months' time they had only three meetings. Since December 1919, they have not met at all. Three months ago they were asked to submit a report, but no report was forthcoming from this somnolent committee In the meantime we had an *ad interim* report, and Government, which has been attacked for doing nothing, has given effect to some of their recommendations. We held an exhibition in Calcutta and spent Rs. 5,000 or Rs 6,000 over that, and we have employed assistant surgeons for the purpose of training *dais*. Thus we are doing something for child welfare, and we have budgeted some money for this purpose. All that shows the solicitude of Government in this matter.

My friend the mover has referred to an ancient conversation that I had with him about health problems. Well, Sir, I find it a very unfortunate thing to have led a long public life, for the simple reason that you are confronted with statements which you might have made 40 or 50 years back, which you might have forgotten, and with regard to which you might in the altered circumstances have revised your views. Without any reference to that conversation, I desire to put this question to this House—Am I not entitled to change my views in the light of new facts, in the light of new developments? Consistency may be a great virtue, but progress is something better. Mr. Gladstone began his life as

the rising hope of the unbending Tories. Remember he supported Negro slavery and yet he ended life as the illustrious leader of the advanced Radical party. I do not in the smallest degree desire to withdraw in any way from the conversation to which my friend has referred. I want to say this. I am ready to do my best to promote the public health subject to one essential condition, viz , that you will place me in possession of necessary funds for the purpose. You hold the purse-strings of the nation and if you can place sufficient funds at my disposal I am hopeful of driving malaria out of the land

I accept this resolution, subject to the amendment to which I have referred, and I hope that this will be unanimously agreed to by the House.

The PRESIDENT: Permission may be given to the mover of the resolution to amend his motion in the manner suggested by the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea.

Rai MAHENDRA NATH MITRA Bahadur: Sir, I thank the Hon'ble Minister for suggesting -

The PRESIDENT: I do not know if you are replying. I only gave you permission to accept the resolution in its amended form and the discussion will now be on the motion as now amended.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I beg to move that the question be now put. Further discussion is unnecessary.

The amended motion was then put and carried.

Board of Revenue.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "This Council recommends to the Government that the Board of Revenue be abolished and that no provision be made for it in the next year's Budget."

This resolution is moved mainly on the grounds of economy and efficiency, but before I say anything on the subject, I think I ought to make an explanation as to why the resolution has been brought forward now. At the last meeting of the Council, it was suggested that after the presentation of the Budget a committee or a number of small committees might be appointed to consider what economy could be effected in the cost of administration. In view of this suggestion, the resolution regarding the abolition of the posts of the Divisional Commissioners was withdrawn. It may be thought that I might also just as well withdraw this resolution for the same reason. But I submit, Sir, that my case is quite different, because I take my stand on the unanimous recommendation of a committee—no less than the Royal Commission upon Decentralisation—a committee whose voice is always bound to carry greater weight than any committee that may be appointed by this House. I venture to make this assertion, because the members of that commission were all well-known and experienced

administrators, whose opinion always carried great weight with the Government as well as with the people. As an example, I shall only mention the names of a few members of that Commission. The President of that Commission was Lord Hobhouse, who held the most responsible post of an Under-Secretary of State for India; then there was Mr. (now Sir) William Meyer, who afterwards became the Finance Member of the Government of India, and who now holds the most responsible position of the High Commissioner for India in England. Then we had our most illustrious countryman administrator and statesman, the late lamented R. C. Dutt, than whom I do not know of any abler and better lover of this country. These were some of the members of that Commission. Then, Sir, who do you think was the Secretary to that Commission? He was no other than our present senior Member of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler. This was the Commission that took a mass of most valuable evidence regarding the work of the various departments of Government and recommended the abolition of the Board of Revenue in 1909. Can this Council appoint a better committee than this?

Before reading out the recommendations of this Commission, I hope this Council will permit me to trace, in a few words, the history and functions of the Board of Revenue. About the end of the 18th century, Boards of Revenue were established in Madras and Bengal mainly for the purpose of revenue administration. Among the three major provinces, Bengal, Madras and Bombay, Madras has no Divisional Commissioners, whereas Bombay has no Board of Revenue, though there is a Financial Commissioner there.

In Bengal alone of these provinces there has been the double system of administration by a Board of Revenue and the Divisional Commissioners. It may not be out of place to mention that when the Board was first established in Bengal, the Governor of Bengal was also the Governor-General of India, and was busy with the work of extension and consolidation of the British possessions, and that there were no easy means of communication then. The Board of Revenue was then a necessity, which the Bengal of the present day has long outlived. It was reasonable to expect that when the posts of the Governor of Bengal and the Governor-General of India were separated and Bengal and the United Provinces were placed under separate Lieutenant-Governors, that the Board would be abolished, but, instead of one Board, two were created, one for Bengal and the other for the United Provinces, on the ground, I suppose, that "the more the merrier." There are now three Boards of Revenue in the three provinces which have been created out of the one old province of Bengal, but such unnecessary expenditure could not go unchallenged very long. Many people felt that the existence of the Board, where there were Divisional Commissioners, was quite superfluous, and the first authoritative pronouncement came from one of the Boards themselves, when in 1893

the Board of the United Provinces recommended its abolition. Then in 1909 came the weighty recommendation of the Royal Commission on Decentralisation, of which I have already spoken. This Commission recommended the creation of Council Government in all the major provinces where it did not exist and the abolition of the existing Boards of Revenue. This is the recommendation made by them. This is an important matter and I hope the House will kindly excuse my reading out to it paragraph 469, page 163:

> But if and when the Lieutenant-Governorships are, as we have already suggested, converted into Council Government, we think that it will be desirable to make the Executive Councils sufficiently strong to absorb the existing Boards of Revenue or Financial Commissioners and to vest in the Government itself such functions, now discharged by these, as cannot expediently be made over to the Commissioners. The Head of the Province would thus share the burden of responsibility with independent and experienced councillors, who would be more useful in this capacity as dealing with a wide field of administration. At the same time, the objections now raised against the reduplication of work and the existence of two separate office establishments would be met.

This is the recommendation, and as the result of this recommendation, Council Government was introduced into Bengal and the proposal for the abolition of the Board was taken up. There was some correspondence on the subject between the local Government, the Government of India, and the Secretary of State regarding the question of its abolition. It appears that the Secretary of State ultimately decided against the abolition. I am sorry that the Government have made it impossible for me to find out why the Secretary of State sanctioned the retention of the Board in spite of the Decentralisation Committee's report. In answer to a question of mine, the Government declared yesterday that they did not wish to publish the correspondence regarding the proposed abolition of the Board of Revenue, because this was of a confidential nature. I fail to understand why the reasons for the retention of the Board should be regarded as confidential, while the reasons for abolition could be published by the Decentralisation Commission. The obvious conclusion is that the reasons for retention must be very weak indeed and cannot bear the light of day.

The Zamindars of Bengal were also to a certain extent responsible for this decision. Their association, the British Indian Association, petitioned Government against the abolition of the Board. The main ground on which they opposed the abolition was that, as the final appellate authority in revenue matters, the Board carried great confidence with the people, because counsel were allowed to appear before the Board and its abolition would prove unpopular. I shall examine this contention later on.

As a compromise between the two contending opinions of abolition and retention, the number of the Members of the Board of Revenue was reduced from 2 to 1 in 1913 and the administration of many of the

departments, including Survey and Settlement, Customs, Excise, Stamps, Land Acquisition, and Co-operative Credit Societies, were transferred to Government. In spite of protests—I believe there were some protests, but I am open to correction—that these transfers would spell disaster, nothing untoward has happened so far. From 1913 to 1918, all revisional powers under the Income Tax Department were exercised by the local Government, which had been previously exercised by the Board. Even some of the appellate powers of the Board were transferred to Government by the Decentralisation Act of 1915. If transfers can be safely effected of some of the most important departments, and also of statutory appellate powers in some cases, it passes ordinary comprehension why it cannot be done in the remaining departments.

Let us now see what are the main functions of the Board after this reorganisation of 1913. The Board has now two I.C.S. officers, one Member and one Secretary, and some clerks, the whole costing as much as Rs. 1,39,000 per year. Its functions are mainly:

(1) Final Court of Appeal and Revision in Revenue matters.

(2) It is the Court of Wards and the Manager of Government estates.

(3) General supervision of the revenue work of Commissioners and Collectors.

(4) It exercises the power of making rules, notifications and orders having the force of law, and executive instructions for the conduct of business in every department under its control.

There are, of course, some other minor matters whose details I need not go into.

The first is the most important and I shall take it up last. With the advent of the new constitution, the number of Members of the Government, including Executive Councillors and Ministers, has been considerably increased. There does not seem any reason why the ordinary duties of the Board of Revenue should not be taken up by some Member of Government or some other official. As regards the supervision of the revenue work of the Commissioners and Collectors and framing rules, notifications, etc., these can be very well managed by the Revenue Member. The Revenue Secretary can easily be of great assistance, as the work done by this Secretary till a month or two ago, is now being done by two Secretaries, namely, the Revenue Secretary and the Secretary for Agriculture.

Then comes the question of the Court of Wards and the management of the Government estates. Except over estates with an income of more than a lakh of rupees (and the number of such estates under the Court of Wards cannot be more than five or six), the supervision of the Board has been merely nominal. This work can be safely handed over to the Commissioners.

Then comes the most important work of the Board, namely, as the final court of appeal and revision in revenue matters. This is the crux of the whole point, and mainly on this ground, the abolition of the Board had been opposed by the British Indian Association. I have the greatest respect for that august body, but I am afraid they took up a rather untenable position then. Even if they had some justification when the number of members of the Board was two, there can be no justification now, when the number has been reduced to one, because the chief value of the Board as an appellate court was that the collective opinion of two Members carried great weight both with the Government and with the public, but since the constitution of the one-Member Board, the value of its decisions has naturally lost weight. While formerly, I believe, the concurrence of both the Members was required to reverse the decision of a Commissioner, now one Member can do that. Even in the High Court, I think, except in a few petty cases, Judges cannot sit singly to hear appeals against the decision of the subordinate courts. The name of the Board, therefore, is a misnomer, and it cannot now carry the same confidence, as the British Indian Association thought it would.

I have heard it argued that the appellate powers of the Board cannot be delegated to Commissioners, because there are several of them, and that hence the individual decisions of one cannot be the same as that of the other. Perhaps one Commissioner may give a different judgment from his predecessor. Similarly, the one-Member Board may give a decision which is contrary to that of its predecessor. When questions of principle are involved, which hardly arise nowadays, the Commissioners may easily discuss these matters at their annual conference and come to a joint decision. This would carry greater weight than that of a single-Member Board.

That the public are not enamoured of the decision of a single-Member Board is apparent from the fact that in many cases, when parties are rich enough to fight their cases in civil courts, they do go to the civil courts, in spite of the decision of the Board of Revenue. The civil court has in many cases jurisdiction to entertain such suits.

The zamindars of the riparian districts must have bitter experience of the decisions of the Board under the Alluvian and Diluvian Act. The civil courts in some of the districts are now being flooded with suits against the decision of the Board. I believe, I am not quite sure, the Hon'ble Revenue Member, the Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan is contesting the Government against a decision of the Board.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): May I rise to a point of order? I do not think that a personal remark of that kind should be made.

The PRESIDENT: Personal remarks should always be avoided.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I did not intend to make a personal remark. In whatever way we may look at it, the one-Member Board as a revenue appellate or revisional court, is not much of a success.

If it is not thought desirable to give these powers to Commissioners, these can easily be transferred to a Member of the Executive Council or to a Member and the Legal Remembrancer sitting together.

This court, I am sure, will carry great weight. Even now the Member of the Board has to go up to the High Court in intricate matters. Only very lately, the Board went up to the High Court in a case from the district of Tippera, and the High Court thought fit to modify some of the decisions of the Board. I have heard it argued that, if these appellate powers were transferred to a Member of the Executive Council, lawyers would not be allowed to be heard, and hence the procedure would be unpopular. And why, pray, cannot the lawyers be allowed to appear? Because it is said that it has been the custom so long, and that executive councillors might come into unpleasant contact with the members of the Bar. What argument is this? Surely this custom or practice is not like the laws of the Medes or the Persians that it cannot be changed? It was not the practice to call *swaraj* the goal of India, but it has now been done. As regards the question of the unpleasant contact, the argument seems futile and childish. Why, the Executive Councillors are more likely to come into unpleasant contact with the elected members of this Council, and yet they are not kept away from this House. Surely the Executive Councillors do not wish to be kept in glass cases. The days of false prestige are over. I hope, I have been able to convince the House that the cry of popular disapproval of the abolition of the Board has no basis, in fact, and that the appellate and revisional work of the Board may safely and easily and with more efficiency be transferred to other hands.

Now, Sir, it may be argued that the Member of the Board is a busy officer with much work to do, and that the abolition would be a disaster as far as efficiency is concerned. I emphatically declare that the Member has not sufficient work to do in the Board and I am sure that the House will agree with me, when I enumerate the extra work that has been foisted upon him to keep him busy. First, he is to work as the Chairman of the Calcutta Port Commissioners. Is not there any other suitable and capable man who can do this work? Then, he is the President of the Sanitary Board. Why, I do not know. Then during the last great war, he was also the President of the Exemption Tribunal and the Selection Committee of the India Defence Force; and last but not the least, I believe, he is the President of the Zoological Gardens. It has long been conceded that a Civilian is an expert in almost all the branches of administration, but this is the first time that I have heard of the services of a Member of the Board of Revenue required inside the Zoological Gardens.

I think that the above list will be a sufficient indication that the Member of the Board cannot have much work to do in the Board itself. From whatever standpoint the question may be looked at,—whether from the ground of economy or efficiency,—it seems clear that the Board is redundant and may be easily done away with. There is absolutely no necessity of keeping its staff of Secretary and clerks at the headquarters of Government, where there are now Secretaries enough to take up the work of the Board amongst themselves.

As regards the necessary delegation of powers, I think one single Amending Act may easily settle that. The Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler was the able Secretary to the Royal Commission on Decentralisation, and I sincerely hope and appeal to him that he will have some respect for the recommendation of that authoritative body and support this proposal. Only lately, the question of the abolition of the Board of Revenue was brought before the Council in the United Provinces and Madras. In the United Provinces Council, the Government said that they would consult the landlords on this point, and on that assurance, the resolution was withdrawn. In Madras, where there are no Commissioners, the question of the abolition was put forward, and the Government did not take an unsympathetic view and the resolution was withdrawn. I sincerely trust that we shall get the same sympathetic treatment in Bengal from our Government. With these few words, I beg to move the resolution

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: I rise to oppose this motion. Of the various grounds on which I do so, the first and foremost ground is that it is too early, premature and unreasonable. The resolution proposes that recommendations be made to Government that the Board of Revenue be abolished and that no provision be made for it in the next year's Budget. The next year's Budget takes effect from the 1st April next; are we to understand that from that date there will be no Board of Revenue and no arrangement will be made to divide the duties of this branch of administration amongst other branches? My friend has argued that the most important work of the Board of Revenue is to hear revenue appeals, but if we are going to change that practice, the laws of the land must be changed, so that, the work now done by them might be done by Members of the Executive Council, as suggested by Mr. Dutt. The wording of the resolution is awfully childish. The other day the Council passed a resolution that the number of Members of the Executive Council be reduced to two and, if we now move Government to transfer the work of the Board of Revenue to the four Executive Councillors our position will be ridiculous. The Board of Revenue is an important branch of the administration, and it will take a long time to abolish it and divide its work among different officers and different branches of the administration. My friend should have come forward with a reasonable proposition, suggesting that the matter be considered by a committee to introduce the system which is prevalent in Bombay. I ask my friend to withdraw the motion for the present and to come

forward with it afterwards, in a proper form and with definite suggestions.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I do not wish to press the last part of my resolution, I wish to withdraw it.

The PRESIDENT: You cannot withdraw it without the leave of the Council.

Rai NALINAKSHA BASU Bahadur: I wanted to support the resolution, but after hearing the speech of my friend on my left (Babu Nityа Dhone Mukherjee) I oppose it

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: The Board of Revenue has long been considered a department of doubtful utility. So far as pure revenue matters are considered, one of the two I mean the Commissionership of a Division and a Board of Revenue is certainly redundant. Of the three major provinces, Bombay has no Board of Revenue, Madras no Commissioner, but Bengal has got both. The Commissioner of a Division is generally the medium of communication between the District Officer and the chief revenue authority, and he is also the appellate authority in land revenue matters from the orders of the District officer. He is entrusted with the duties of inspection, general control and sanctioning or refusing certain expenditure. Thus nearly the whole of the administrative work of the Revenue Department is vested in the hands of the Commissioner. Since 1912, the major portion of the duties of the Board of Revenue, such as land records, surveys, excise, salt, customs, income-tax, opium, land acquisition, etc., have been transferred to several independent departments Only land revenue, cess and several other minor subjects are left in the hands of the Board Though the number of Members have been reduced to one, but still it appears that this even is unnecessary The Royal Commission on Decentralization declared that, with the advent of the then larger Councils, this department can be abolished and its duties taken up by a Member of Council This argument holds with greater force to-day, when the few duties of the Board can now safely be distributed among the various members and Ministers. In the United Provinces and Madras similar resolutions have already been sympathetically received by the Government, and there is no reason why the same will not be accepted here also The argument that it is the final appellate court in intricate revenue problems need not be seriously considered, as with the reduction of the number of Members of the Board to one, the value of the collective opinion in such cases is gone. Nothing stands in the way of a Minister or Executive Member, assisted by the increased number of Secretaries, taking up this function. This will also save nearly Rs. 1,20,000 annually and this is no trifling sum in these days of financial tightness.

With these few words, I beg to support the resolution.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: We have had four speeches up to now with regard to the motion before the House, namely, that recommendations be made to Government for the abolition of the Board of Revenue in Bengal. Of the four speakers, two have opposed the motion. With regard to Mr. Faninderlal De, who has just sat down, I am sure the central idea of his is economy. One must overlook a lot of things which he said, which he would not have said if he had studied the question more seriously. Therefore, the gentleman to whom I have to reply is at present the mover of the resolution. The mover of the resolution has tried to wax eloquent and at the same time he has tried to be sarcastic. I have no quarrel with him either for his eloquence or for his sarcasms, because it is my duty as a Member of Government to lay the facts of the case as clearly as it is possible for me to do so for this House to judge whether a sufficiently strong case has been made out for the abolition of the Board of Revenue. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta began his speech by saying that he was actuated by motives of economy on the one hand and efficiency on the other. Regarding economy, it is very easy to advocate that. Regarding efficiency, it is quite a different pair of boots, and it is natural that gentlemen who are not fully aware of what the Board of Revenue stands for—although I must admire the amount of knowledge that Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has been able to acquire on the subject—would be led astray. But the main argument on which he has laid stress, is that of the Commission, on which my colleague on the left happened to be, fortunately or unfortunately, the Secretary, and he has appealed personally to the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler—though he was not here at the time when the appeal was made—that he would help him in obtaining the abolition of the Board from Bengal. I do not know what the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler thinks of the proposition, but what I would like to point out to the mover of the resolution is that it is quite true that the Decentralisation Commission did recommend the abolition of the Board. It is equally true that, on the recommendations of that Commission, the Government of India consulted local Governments, and it is further true that, after consulting the local Governments, the Government of India arrived at the decision by which we now have one Member of the Board of Revenue. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta then went on in his speech to explain to us the systems prevalent in Madras and in Bombay. In recommending, however, the change, so far as Bengal is concerned, he whether intentionally or unintentionally—he could best himself say—did not bring forward forcibly why in Bombay they had to have a Financial Commissioner, and he rather tried to enliven the Council by the remark "the more the merrier." Then he went on to give us some past history, and said that in 1893 the United Provinces Government had recommended the abolition of the Board. Then he based his arguments upon the present functions of the Board and why it could not be distributed among the seven Members and Ministers of Government; and

then he has mentioned what the functions of the Board are at present, and why could not they be delegated to Commissioners or other authorities or "other officials," according to his own words. I do not know what "the other officials," mean; I hope he will explain in his reply. Then he has mentioned regarding his arguments—I am at present only mentioning them for the enlightenment of the Council, the principal points, on which he has based his case, my reply will follow—that counsel cannot appear before the Members of the Executive Government; that is a fallacious argument; there is no harm in counsel appearing before the Members of the Government, and it is not *infra dig* for Members of Government to hear counsel, and so forth. Then he has gone on to point out and show that the functions of the Board are no longer what they were before, and lastly, he has made the curious proposal that the one Member might remain, but that as people seem to have lost confidence in the Member being one, so far as the Government authorities are concerned, he might be assisted by the Legal Remembrancer in forming the court.

I think, Sir, those are in brief the arguments which have been brought forward by the mover of this resolution.

Now, apart from the question of rules framed in accordance with the provisions of a number of Acts by the Board, and orders and notifications passed which have the force of law, and apart from other functions of the Board, I should like, first of all, to meet his arguments, which, of course, he has tried to meet in his own way, why the appellate jurisdiction in revenue law could not be vested in Commissioners. As we know, in Bengal there are at present five divisions, and he has himself said that we might argue that the decisions of one Commissioner may vary from those of another, and he has tried to meet that argument by saying that the same thing might happen in the Board, by the decision of one Member of the Board of Revenue being different to that of his predecessor. I think that the comparison is not quite correct, nor can it be said to apply in this case with the same force. We have five divisions; supposing a Commissioner of a particular division were to give a decision regarding an appeal in revenue law, which was not correct, according to him, the Commissioner of A division's decision would remain as he had given it, whilst the Commissioner of B division's decisions might be according to the old law. What he seems to forget is that the co-ordinating authority vested in the Board, is the authority which can revise not only the decision of the Commissioner of A division or B division, but of all the five divisions, and bring it into line and make it the decision of the Board as a whole. This could not be done if the decisions were left to Divisional Commissioners. Then again, as I have already said, from the point of view of the Government a single authority for co-ordinating revenue law and procedure is essential, when we have such important functions regarding revenue law vested in the Board of Revenue; and it is also quite clear that even if the Member

of the Board of Revenue were to be abolished, we would have to have another authority besides the Commissioners, like what they have in Bombay, and I believe, in the Punjab, the Financial Commissioner. Now, if that be so, it seems to me essential that when the system now prevalent with regard to the appellate authority being vested in the Board of Revenue has worked well for, no case, I think, has been made out by the mover of the resolution to show that that work is being done badly or unsatisfactorily or that there is a general discontent in the way in which the Board is now discharging its duties—that when we have to accede that such a central co-ordinating authority is essential, I do not see the need of changing the present system, especially when in changing it, it is perfectly clear that we cannot simply delegate these powers to Commissioners, regarding whom a certain member not long ago brought in a resolution which he afterwards withdrew, to abolish them altogether. Then, of course, he has brought the argument that the functions of an appellate court can be exercised by a Member of Government. Well, regarding that, I do not wish to go into the question of custom which, evidently, does not find favour with Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, but I would like just to mention two facts. One is that, however much the word "political" may find disfavour with the mover, it is undoubtedly the fact that from a political point of view it would be totally unsound for a Member of the Government to be an appellate authority, and from that point of view it would be most unsatisfactory that a Member of the Executive Council should sit as a Member of the Board to hear appeals in which counsel appear, and regarding this, it has been decided upon by the highest authority, viz., the Secretary of State, who also agrees that on political grounds alone it is undesirable for a Member of the Government to sit as an appellate authority. He also says there is another thing to consider. Supposing a Member of Government takes up the duties of the Board of Revenue——

The PRESIDENT: I am sorry to have to interrupt the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja. This is the time for adjournment for the Muhammadan members to offer their prayers.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: Of course, if the President wishes to adjourn in the middle of an important debate, that is another matter, but on behalf of Government I must press this; however, I bow to the decision of the President.

The PRESIDENT: After adjournment, the discussion will be resumed.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: It takes away the effect of the discussion when the discussion is an important one.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I rise to a point of order. Has the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja the right to go on after the President's decision?

The PRESIDENT: I have not prevented the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur from going on; I have only said that this is the time for adjournment, if the Hon'ble the Mharajadhiraja Bahadur wishes to take more time, he can resume the subject after the adjournment.

Mr. RAZAUR RAHMAN KHAN: Should not the Council adjourn for *magrib* prayer?

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: Is this not an occasion when the Deputy-President can take the chair in the meantime?

The PRESIDENT: It is not so much for me as it is for the members of the Council. The Council adjourns for 15 minutes.

The Council reassembled at 6-30 P.M.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I have already explained to the mover of the resolution, who, I think, must be praying, as I do not find him here, why it would not be proper to transfer this authority of the Board of Commissioners. I have also mentioned some of the reasons why this transference to Government would not be possible either; and regarding those reasons I think I mentioned two very important reasons: one is that the Board of Revenue in Bengal is in fact the head of several departments and there are many heads of departments subordinate to it, viz., the head of the Land Registration Department, Cess Department, Sale Law Department, Certificate Department, Wards Department, Partition Department, Tauzi Department and last, but by no means the least important—the Khas Mahal Department. It is essential for practical and efficient administration that there must be a head in Bengal for such departments taken *en bloc* and further, as I have already said, and I should like to emphasise the fact once for all—and that is a very important consideration namely, the dissolution of the Board would deprive Government of an independent advisory authority on the revenue administration of the Presidency. Such a loss would be increasingly felt, and, if it was thought that the Board should be abolished (and I think that one speaker, Babu Nitya Dhon Mukherjee, pointed out what a number of enactments there were in which the appellate authority of the Board had to be used), and apart from the fact that if it was decided to delegate these authorities, various complications would arise, which we could not estimate off-hand; and Government regard it as a matter of first importance to them to have handy a Board of Revenue which is the acknowledged technical expert on the land revenue administration of the province.

Another thing, Sir. I doubt if those people, who believe in that authority now vested in the Board in the province—and I think that they are a body of very influential men—would accept the position lying down, if the Government were to accept the recommendation of the mover of the resolution. I can, of course, dilate further on the subject; but I think that from the point of view of Government I have clearly stated the main points regarding which it would be inadvisable to abolish the Board of Revenue as a co-ordinate appellate authority.

With regard to the charge made by the mover as to why Government in replying to a question declined to make public the correspondence between this Government and the Government of India and the Secretary of State, my reply simply is this: that the Provincial Government have no right or authority to publish a correspondence with a higher authority without its previous sanction. For these reasons, I beg to oppose, on behalf of the Government, the resolution moved by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta.

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): As a reference has been made to a body, with which I was connected in a small way, and to my connection with it in particular, it is perhaps desirable that I should say a word on that point. It is true that I was Secretary to the Decentralisation Commission. It is also true that the Decentralisation Commission made, to my mind, a somewhat casual recommendation that the Board of Revenue was unnecessary, but it is unfortunately not true that my influence with that Commission was such as to induce them always to accept the views of their Secretary. Had I been a full member, I am afraid their report would have been further speckled with those little things that so often accompany reports—namely, notes of dissent; but on this particular point I may perhaps mention some relevant facts.

The question of this retention or abolition of the Board is very much one of technical revenue administration. Now, whatever, its other merits may have been, the Decentralisation Commission was not very strong on the revenue side. Two of its members, including the Chairman, had never been in the country before, and two of the Civilian members, namely those from Madras and Bombay, had made their reputation in lines other than revenue, and were not what is ordinarily termed "revenue experts."

Secondly, how did this particular recommendation about the Board come to be made? I can assure the Council, as one of the few people living, and likely to remain so, who have read the evidence which was taken before the Decentralisation Commission, that this recommendation was not made in response to any volume of evidence that was given before the Commission in different parts of India. There was no universal outcry anywhere for the abolition of the Board, but the Commission were very anxious to propose for other provinces the Council form of Government which has now come in, but which in those days

was a bit of a rarity outside Madras and Bombay, with which Sir William Meyer and Sir Steyning Edgerly were particularly connected. It was hardly relevant to the terms of their reference to make this proposal, but with the Decentralisation Commission, as with other Commissions and people who have to make reports, that fact did not weigh overmuch. They were anxious to make that recommendation and they accordingly made it. Sir William Meyer, however, had a financial mind, and one characteristic of the financial mind is that when it makes a proposal for expenditure it also looks round for a corresponding economy. The Commission were a little apprehensive, as in those days Council Government was regarded somewhat differently from what it is now, and they were anxious to soften the blow; so Sir William Meyer had the happy idea of recommending the corresponding abolition of the Board of Revenue. That briefly, Sir, is the inner history of how this recommendation came to be made by the Decentralisation Commission.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: I fully appreciate the spirit which has moved the mover of this resolution for the abolition of the Board of Revenue; but at the same time we must remember that only the other day we have passed a resolution in which we have distinctly stated and in which we have distinctly recommended, that the number of Members of the Executive Council should be reduced to two. Now, Sir, the mover, just like a lawyer, has given his reasons——

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I rise to a point of order. I am not a lawyer.

The PRESIDENT: I do not think it is a reflection to call a man a lawyer. However, the speaker now knows that Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta is not a lawyer.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: And he has quoted an authority in respect of his argument. Now, Sir, after reading the paragraph to which the mover referred, *i.e.*, paragraph 469 of the Royal Commission on Decentralisation, I find that that paragraph itself is a complete answer to the arguments which have been put forward by the mover. There the Commission recommended no doubt that, when Lieutenant-Governorships are converted into Council Governments, it would be desirable to make the Executive Councils sufficiently strong to absorb the existing Boards of Revenue or Financial Commissioners. The whole question is whether we have made the Executive Councils sufficiently strong to perform all the duties which the Board of Revenue at present exercises. That is the whole question before the House and, if for efficient administration it is required that the number of Members of the Executive Council should be still more increased, it is then and then only that we can say that the duties of the Board of Revenue can be safely transferred to the Members of the Executive Council; until and unless that is done, I think, Sir, it would be quite premature to recommend to Government that the Board of Revenue be abolished. I also wish to point out that, having regard

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With regard to the charge made by the mover as to why Government in replying to a question declined to make public the correspondence between this Government and the Government of India and the Secretary of State, my reply simply is this: that the Provincial Government have no right or authority to publish a correspondence with a higher authority without its previous sanction. For these reasons, I beg to oppose, on behalf of the Government, the resolution moved by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta.

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): As a reference has been made to a body, with which I was connected in a small way, and to my connection with it in particular, it is perhaps desirable that I should say a word on that point. It is true that I was Secretary to the Decentralisation Commission. It is also true that the Decentralisation Commission made, to my mind, a somewhat casual recommendation that the Board of Revenue was unnecessary, but it is unfortunately not true that my influence with that Commission was such as to induce them always to accept the views of their Secretary. Had I been a full member, I am afraid their report would have been further speckled with those little things that so often accompany reports—namely, notes of dissent; but on this particular point I may perhaps mention some relevant facts.

The question of this retention or abolition of the Board is very much one of technical revenue administration. Now, whatever, its other merits may have been, the Decentralisation Commission was not very strong on the revenue side. Two of its members, including the Chairman, had never been in the country before, and two of the Civilian members, namely those from Madras and Bombay, had made their reputation in lines other than revenue, and were not what is ordinarily termed "revenue experts."

Secondly, how did this particular recommendation about the Board come to be made? I can assure the Council, as one of the few people living, and likely to remain so, who have read the evidence which was taken before the Decentralisation Commission, that this recommendation was not made in response to any volume of evidence that was given before the Commission in different parts of India. There was no universal outcry anywhere for the abolition of the Board, but the Commission were very anxious to propose for other provinces the Council form of Government which has now come in, but which in those days

was a bit of a rarity outside Madras and Bombay, with which Sir William Meyer and Sir Steyning Edgerly were particularly connected. It was hardly relevant to the terms of their reference to make this proposal, but with the Decentralisation Commission, as with other Commissions and people who have to make reports, that fact did not weigh overmuch. They were anxious to make that recommendation and they accordingly made it. Sir William Meyer, however, had a financial mind, and one characteristic of the financial mind is that when it makes a proposal for expenditure it also looks round for a corresponding economy. The Commission were a little apprehensive, as in those days Council Government was regarded somewhat differently from what it is now, and they were anxious to soften the blow, so Sir William Meyer had the happy idea of recommending the corresponding abolition of the Board of Revenue. That briefly, Sir, is the inner history of how this recommendation came to be made by the Decentralisation Commission.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: I fully appreciate the spirit which has moved the mover of this resolution for the abolition of the Board of Revenue, but at the same time we must remember that only the other day we have passed a resolution in which we have distinctly stated and in which we have distinctly recommended, that the number of Members of the Executive Council should be reduced to two. Now, Sir, the mover, just like a lawyer, has given his reasons——

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I rise to a point of order. I am not a lawyer.

The PRESIDENT: I do not think it is a reflection to call a man a lawyer. However, the speaker now knows that Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta is not a lawyer.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: And he has quoted an authority in respect of his argument. Now, Sir, after reading the paragraph to which the mover referred, *i.e.*, paragraph 469 of the Royal Commission on Decentralisation, I find that that paragraph itself is a complete answer to the arguments which have been put forward by the mover. There the Commission recommended no doubt that, when Lieutenant-Governorships are converted into Council Governments, it would be desirable to make the Executive Councils sufficiently strong to absorb the existing Boards of Revenue or Financial Commissioners. The whole question is whether we have made the Executive Councils sufficiently strong to perform all the duties which the Board of Revenue at present exercises. That is the whole question before the House and, if for efficient administration it is required that the number of Members of the Executive Council should be still more increased, it is then and then only that we can say that the duties of the Board of Revenue can be safely transferred to the Members of the Executive Council; until and unless that is done, I think, Sir, it would be quite premature to recommend to Government that the Board of Revenue be abolished. I also wish to point out that, having regard

to the fact that there are certain Statutes and Acts, which distinctly lay down certain provisions under which the Board of Revenue exercises its judicial powers, it would be quite useless to recommend that so long as the present laws and regulations are in force, the Board of Revenue should be at once abolished and no provision ought to be made in the next year's Budget.

Then, as regards the question as to whether really those powers, I mean the judicial powers, which the Board of Revenue now exercises, can be safely transferred to some other quarters, the mover could not suggest any satisfactory solution: at one time he hinted that it might be transferred to an Executive Councillor, who might take the advice of the Legal Remembrancer; but the mover forgets that here the Board of Revenue, as a collective body just like the jurors, as we have got them here, give collective opinion on a particular question; and if really they are the co-ordinate authorities, who exercise their discretion and who exercise their judgment over several Divisional Commissioners, such powers cannot be transferred to a Member of the Executive Council. I think, Sir, there was a cry in this Province, as well as throughout the whole of India, that the judicial ought to be separated from the executive; I do not know whether the judicial powers which the Board now exercise could be again transferred to the Members of the Executive Council. The mover again suggested that the Legal Remembrancer should be linked along with the Member of the Executive Council. Now, Sir, from the very fact that the mover cannot suggest any possible solution by which the powers at present exercised by the Board of Revenue can be safely transferred to some other body, it appears that this is not the proper time when we ought to move a resolution of this kind and, as such, we should reject it as premature.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I am sorry that I have got to oppose the resolution of my friend Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, particularly because the latter part of it seems to be highly open to criticism. I do not like to waste the time of the Council, because my friend, Babu Nitya Dhon Mukherjee, has already said that at the present moment it is quite impracticable, as you cannot at once say that no provision need be made in the next year's Budget—

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May I rise to a point of order? I have already withdrawn the second part of the motion.

The PRESIDENT: I have not allowed it to be withdrawn.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: All the same, I feel that my friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, has made out a very strong case. He has given us all his arguments, not mere *ipse dixit*, but based on the report of the Decentralisation Committee; and other important Committees which were held in this country. I am sorry that the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler wants to speak in derogation of the recommendations of the Decentralisation Commission; and he, like my esteemed *guru*, wants to change his opinion. He says: "I was only the Secretary to

the Committee;" and if I remember aright his language, he characterises the report as irrelevant and in some places as wrong; and he says that it was merely a sop that was thrown out against the high expense with regard to the Executive Council Government. I think, however, that their recommendations were more honest than at least they have been described to be. And if this sort of argument is made by so able and intelligent a person like the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, I can tell him that with all the great esteem I have had for him for the last 25 years he and I worked together many years ago when we were quite young about 25 years ago I had a very great regard for his high intelligence —

The PRESIDENT: These remarks are irrelevant. The Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler does not require any compliments.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I must say that all he has said is certainly not at all convincing to anybody except to those whose interests it is to see that the Board of Revenue must be there That is after all the whole question.

Then, the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan has said with regard to the question of economy, that it is easy to advocate economy. With the greatest possible deference to him, I may say that it is easier still for the Government to say that they are opposed to it, and it is to the interests of Government officials to say that they are opposed to it. Therefore, an argument like that carries no weight. So long as the report of the Decentralisation Commission is there, I do not think that any individual or person, however great may be his position, can possibly carry conviction by saying that he is opposed to it, and by giving certain reasons here and there. I do not think that sort of argument will do at all. The fact that the Board of Revenue is an old, effete and fossilized institution, and there can be no doubt about it, as these things were established when British India was of a different character. It is high time that these institutions should now be abolished or at any rate remodelled

It has been said by the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja that there is so much to be done by this Board of Revenue, and that there will be practical difficulties in altering enactments Cannot enactments be altered? They are not the laws of the Medes and Persians that they can never be altered.

Another difficulty has been pointed out by my friend, Mr. Syed Nasim Ali, who has said that the Board of Revenue have to do judicial work. The same gentleman would have done as much work if he were a Member of Council as if he were on the Board.

I may say that, in view of the fact that we have now got our Members and Ministers, it is time enough for us to think whether we should not ask some of the Members to take up this work. To my mind—and I speak subject to correction, and this feeling is entirely my own—these

Hon'ble Members have not got much to do; and we should not be allowing their intelligence to rust through sheer want of work. Therefore, it is time that we should give them some work so that intellectual rheumatism might not set in. That is a point which is very legitimate and pertinent to the present question.

There are some other arguments that have been advanced against this resolution; and I do not think it necessary to go into the details. But, so far as this question of economy is concerned, I am entirely with my friend Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta. I would point out that in view of what has already transpired, we, the non-official members of this Council, think that at any rate we should rather have the Divisional Commissioners to go first of all, because somewhere about Rs. 6 lakhs could be saved thereby, and that we had better not rush through this matter. It is admitted that the Divisional Commissioners are mere post offices.

The PRESIDENT: We cannot listen to any arguments regarding the Divisional Commissioners. That resolution was lost.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: The motion was not lost but withdrawn.

The PRESIDENT: It does not matter. We are not discussing the Divisional Commissioners in connection with this motion.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: Very well, I shall not mention anything about the Divisional Commissioners. With regard to a certain class of officers whom we do not want, it would be the best thing to get rid of them first; and we should thereby save a larger amount of money than by running against the Board of Revenue. Now, one thing is certain, and that is that in the course of a few years this Board of Revenue has to go. Nothing that is old, effete and fossilized can possibly stand in spite of any amount of official efforts to prop it up. The time is coming when the Board has got to go: and at the time, when it goes, those Hon'ble Members, who now say that if it goes the work of Government will be stopped, or at any rate their successors, would wonder how it was kept for such a length of time. When we have a thing, we think that it is impossible to do without it. When I have got a father, I think it is impossible to remain in this world without a father or mother: but when my father dies and after a few months or years I find that I am going on all right. So the world will not stop when the Board of Revenue is abolished, and this Government will not collapse. We have got to find out some other machinery, which will adapt itself to the circumstances. The laws will have to be changed and that will take time. Therefore, this resolution of my friend is, to a certain extent, premature I would rather be satisfied with merely recommending that the Board of Revenue be abolished—which means nothing more than a mere pious hope often expressed but never cared for, and I would now ask my friend to withdraw this motion. But we

might keep it for our future reference. We must remember that we are new to the situation: we must remember that the whole situation is new to us. We have not yet got the ropes of the Government in our hand, we do not know which rope to pull; so let us have some knowledge first; and after a while when we have got the necessary knowledge by examining the conditions existing throughout the country, and the working of the Revenue Department, then it will be time for us to say: "Now, let us abolish this thing altogether and we shall not tolerate it any longer."

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: The mover of the resolution, the other day, had a resolution about the abolition of the Divisional Commissioners, and so far as I understood him he withdrew that resolution. He withdrew the resolution to make it more comprehensive to include the Board of Revenue also in it and to come up after some time. I submit that now the Board of Revenue has attracted the attention of the mover on the ground of economy, and the mover says that the Board of Revenue now consists of one officer, but there were two officers before. I think now the argument he has advanced is that because there are not two officers or three officers who could consult together, and it is only one officer, therefore his opinion is not worthy of being taken. If it is an argument on the ground of economy, I think that the abolition of one officer is not a very important matter for this House to take into consideration. Again, we see that everywhere there are two appellate courts from the lower court. There are the Munsifs, there are the Judges and there are the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court. In revenue matters there are the Collectors, there are the Commissioners of Divisions and there is the Board of Revenue. I think every one of us knows that there ought to be at least two appellate courts above the lower court in order to ensure true judgment. I think that as we are situated now, the Board of Revenue is a necessity and we cannot do away with it altogether. Therefore on these considerations I oppose the resolution.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I move that the question be now put.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May I rise to a point of order? Have I not, as the mover of this resolution, the right of reply?

The PRESIDENT: No, not after it is moved that the question be now put.

The motion that the question be now put was put and agreed to.

The original motion was then put and lost.

Adjournment.

The PRESIDENT: I am asked by the Secretary to tell the members that there will be a ballot for resolutions to-morrow, at 10-30 A.M.

The Council stands adjourned till 11 o'clock to-morrow

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council, assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 23rd February, 1921, at 11 A.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 82 nominated and elected members.

Resolutions

(under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest).

Vocational Education.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: "This Council recommends to the Government—

(1) that immediate steps be taken for preparing a scheme for the furtherance of vocational education and that practical effect be given to the same by opening special classes in all Government and aided schools in Bengal with the help and in co-ordination with the Agricultural and Public Works Departments, and authorities of workshops and mills, where possible;

(2) that financial provision be made to carry out the scheme as early as possible; and

(3) that the services of the Director of Industries, Bengal, be utilized for the purpose as Commissioner for the proposed special test examinations."

In moving this resolution I may be permitted to say at the very outset that in these days of growing democracy the most democratic thing will be to solve the bread problem of the country and solve it in a practical way by making people self-reliant and, needless to add, self-supporting. The only method to achieve this result is to impart vocational (and it may be termed industrial) education, with particular attention to manual training, to the young children and youths of the country. That education ought to be of such a sound and practical character as will enable the learners to chalk out a road for themselves and then proceed on their own initiative. It has been truly said and said over again that the prosperity and independence (I presume industrial independence) of India is closely associated with the development of her agriculture and industries, her internal provision for her necessities. In all other countries vocational education—call it technical education or by any other name you please—and manual training form the most

essential feature of the educational system. The necessity and ever-growing importance of introducing an elaborate practical scheme of vocational education, making manual training an essential feature, cannot be too strongly pressed home in the minds of our administrators. The poverty of the country due to economic pressure has assumed the character of a most uncomfortable contingency no longer to be overlooked. We must end or at least mend the situation and it cannot be indefinitely postponed. The common sufferings and sacrifices of our people have been great, and I humbly think that it will be no part of wisdom or statesmanship to prolong the situation. Indeed, if I be permitted, I ought to speak out my mind and say that it will be supreme folly not to supply a frame for the play of the forces which go to form the economic life of the country.

All the disquieting features of the present-day situation tend to prove that the bread problem has become the problem of all problems. Want and privation have made the people restive and no wonder for they are in for a desperate struggle for their very existence. There is the growing number of the unemployed youths, whose exclusively literary education has made them "misfits," so to speak. We must come to their help and deal with them in the way they have a just claim to be dealt with. Chronic scarcity, high prices, and want and privation in consequence, have made the people desperate. That in itself is not a pleasant situation. The bread problem, therefore, must be solved. Further neglect of vocational education and manual training will be aggravating and make the situation bad.

"It is a crying need of Bengal to find vocational employment for men of education and intelligence in rural Bengal." So said, not long ago, the Hon'ble Minister for Education. Is it necessary for me to add that vocational employment can never be secured for the youths of the country without giving them vocational education?

The large number of unemployed youths in Bengal are anxiously waiting for a message of hope in this new era from the talented Indian Minister for Education and from the Reformed Council. Let that message of hope be one of lasting benefit to this country. Nothing is more gratifying than that all the wise heads have been put together to evolve a system of vocational education and manual training fully adapted to the requirements of the country, and there is not a safer way of reducing the number of unemployed. The other day I read that our gracious Sovereign the King-Emperor, on a royal visit to a particular London district, assured a deputation of unemployed men that he would do for them all that was in the power of His Majesty, and would see that their condition was ameliorated. Gracious words, and how graciously spoken! Will it not be in the fitness of things that His Excellency the Governor of Bengal in Council, the new Ministers, who are known to be the apostles of patriotism and notable standard-bearers of education and progress, and

the cultured members of this Council—the peoples' friends and representatives—conjointly send forth a message of hope to the young children and the large number of unemployed young men of the country in the language of our Sovereign that henceforth all that should be done for imparting vocational education to the children of the soil, will be done and that no plea will be allowed to stand in the way.

However, as it is, it seems that almost all the Provinces and Presidencies in India are giving points to Bengal in the matter of vocational education and this is humiliating. Bombay does better in many things, and in the matter of vocational education surely it has not done badly. The Sydenham College of Commerce, Poona College of Science, Deccan Agricultural College and many other technical and industrial schools are the best of their kind. The United Provinces are also ahead of us in the matter. The poor Central Provinces are also striving hard for industrial education. Madras can very well take pride in what it has been able to do. Among other things the best enlightened Presidency is very successfully working out a programme of vocational education, styled as special tests technical examinations on all subjects. These examinations are controlled by the Government Commissioner for special test examinations. The scheme has proved a great success. Last year 20,000 pupils appeared for technical and special test examinations, and the amount of fees realised from the examinees was Rs. 2,14,503. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,97,824, leaving a balance of Rs. 16,679 in the hands of the examination Commissioner. Can Bengal claim to possess any scheme of technical education which may attract even a few hundreds of our countrymen? I am aware that there is one for leather tanning. This is a very poor record. Bengal abounds in coal mines and yet we have no college of mining. I am aware of the fact that there is a mining section in the Sibpur Engineering College and three or four centres in the coal fields for delivering lectures on certain days to apprentices in coal mines. There are people who think that these are only makeshift arrangements and Bengal should have at least one first grade college of mining. As for sending abroad students for technical education, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder Ghose's association can show better records of its efforts and success. Since the partition days Bengal has not got even an agricultural college of its own and it has been thought only two vernacular agricultural schools one at Dacca and another at Chinsura, are enough for Bengal, and we are to remember that the area of the country is 68,000 square miles and at least 90 per cent. of its population entirely depend on agriculture. Well, we have the prospect of a coming agricultural institution of better type than that of Dacca and Chinsura. No doubt we have to wait long for this prospective agricultural institution of a comparatively superior type. I say this in view of the fate of the proposal technological institute in Calcutta. It will no doubt be news to the members of this Council that after so many

years a reduced scheme for this proposed institute has been submitted. We have a weaving institution at Serampur and a few weaving schools, perhaps six or seven in number, in outlying places. I am afraid this will not make much of a headway in reviving, developing and expanding the almost dead weaving industry of Bengal. In Bihar, in the Shahabad district, spinning classes have been opened in all schools. I desire that that method should be followed and in a class or classes attached to all the schools of Bengal for vocational education, in which I include manual training in handicrafts. I also read the report of the Department of Industry, Bengal, and I met with disappointment. One thing which attracted my attention was the training of the artisan class, and I found that the apathy of the Education Department in this matter has been adversely commented upon by implication. We have all heard in the last sitting of this Council what the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Industries said as to the Government's programme of mechanical training and agricultural and industrial education. I must, however, confess to my feeling of disappointment, for the programme is quite inadequate to the growing needs of the country—though I am not so ungrateful as to forget that practical effect has been given to the scheme of training a considerable number of apprentices in the Kanchrapara Workshop and turning them after four years' labour there to the mechanical class of the Sibpur Engineering College. I do not know why the same method cannot be adopted and arrangements be made for the admission of mechanical apprentices in the East Indian Railway, Bengal-Nagpur Railway Works, Russa Engineering Works and many other engineering works and workshops, as well as in paper and other mills of the country. I may add here that the Upper India Paper Mills (which is a first-class paper mill) have trained a large number of apprentices in mechanics and mechanical engineering and all of these apprentices have been well provided for. This training of students in railway workshops, engineering workshops, mills and factories forms the first and last item of all industrial training and technical education not only in all Western countries but also in Japan. Students from this country who go abroad for industrial or technical education have also always followed this course. Here, in Bengal, a similar method has been adopted to give instruction in mining to the apprentices in collieries. What is necessary now is the expansion of this system of technical and industrial education in co-operation with the authorities of different railways, workshops, mills and factories. We may not meet with success in all places, but I cannot persuade myself to believe that the authorities of all kinds of institutions will be so ungenerous as to forget their own traditions and refuse help and co-operation in a matter on which the very existence of the people of Bengal depends. The soil of Bengal is providing them with enormous wealth, and I am bold enough to repeat that they cannot afford to be apathetic or ungenerous. That is not a trait of the British character. Once convinced of the utility of a thing,

the Englishman will grudge nothing for the benefit of another individual or community.

I have been very particular in saying that Bengal requires a message of hope. Circumstanced as we are, direct initiative of the State is necessary for imparting vocational education and manual training to the young children and youths of the country. The action has been long overdue and even now it will do grace to our position in this Reformed Council if we take up the matter in right earnest and prove ourselves practical.

The Government have been always in the habit of saying "financial stringency." Therefore I am in mortal dread of that inevitable pronouncement, "financial stringency." I am, however, prepared to begin with a modest—I should say very modest—scheme of vocational education and manual training. My scheme is practically the same as is now being followed in giving mining instruction in a few centres in the Bengal coal fields. I want that a class or classes be added for amins, surveyors, draftsmen, estimators and computers in all high schools in the localities where there is an Executive Engineer's division, and members of the local Public Works Department there be appointed as teachers for a fixed allowance. I hear already this very policy has been adopted in mining instruction. Mechanical classes are to be opened in localities where there are workshops in a mill; classes for handicrafts are to be attached in schools where there exist certain activities in handicrafts. Weaving and spinning classes are to be added to schools where there exists the industry to a certain extent —places like Tamluk, Garhbeta, Ghatal, Khanakul, Dantan, Indas, Sonamukhi, Haripal, Kaikala, Gurope, Dhanakhali, and also in other places where the industry is not already dead. Agricultural classes should be opened and added to all schools in agricultural localities. Permanent machines will not be required in all institutions. Peripatetic teachers will do for some time to come. In fact, a practical modest scheme will not require such a huge sum as to at all frighten the Government and this Council. It is reported that Government have neglected vocational education. Remove that reproach by all means. We have had many committees on industrial education—the Industrial Commission, Inquiry and report by the Hon'ble Mr. Cumming and another by Mr. Swan, and perhaps many others too. The country has formed its own opinion of committees and commissions. These have been known to be pleas for shelving matters of urgency on which public opinion is very strong. Association of ideas is bad and association of ideas has made committees instruments for pacifying public demand. The situation should no longer continue in that way. The country and its people have been taught to think for themselves. They can see through diplomacy—the worst move.

Bengal has an area of 68,000 square miles. The country has also mineral resources, a fertile soil, and teeming millions. But Bengal is

poor—on the starvation point—and why? There is something wrong, gravely wrong. It will be very apt to say in the words of Mr John Bright:—

I must say that it is my belief that if a country be found possessing a most fertile soil and capable of having every variety of production, and notwithstanding that the people are in a state of extreme destitution and suffering, the inference is that there is some fundamental error in the Government of that country.

Yes, there is a fundamental error in our educational system, and that requires to be removed.

Finally, I am to add that I am no advocate of a sterile policy and programme. What I desire is a will to work, and zeal and earnestness for prompt action. The issue is one of first importance, and I request this Council to be a party for sending forth a message of hope to the young people of Bengal by recording their votes in support of my resolution, and need I add that I not only expect solid votes but a unanimous vote of approval.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur moved "that a mixed committee of officials and non-officials be appointed to investigate the question of vocational and technical education in this Presidency, to collect expert opinion and information relative thereto, and to make recommendations with a view to the initiation of a comprehensive scheme for the promotion of such education."

The object, which the mover of the original resolution has in view, is entirely the same as I have in view. The difference is in the *modus operandi*. In the first place, I entirely agree with him that public opinion is insistent on, and I should say that public opinion is clamouring for, industrial and technical education in this country. The army of unemployed young men, disappointed graduates, briefless lawyers, starving clerks, all tend to show that the education now in vogue has given too much attention to the literary side of it and neglected the practical side of education. The University Commission also dealt with the subject and I find that they recorded this opinion:—

We have been deeply impressed by the general disregard among University students in Bengal of the possibility of finding careers in practical—professional and technical—work, other than law and (to a less extent) medicine, by the deficiency of opportunities for obtaining training for such careers, and by the consequent over-crowding of courses of purely literary study. This disregard has its root in historical and social facts which especially affect the classes from which the bulk of the students are drawn. But it must be amended, and any scheme of educational reform which does not place in the forefront the need for such an amendment must fall short of the country's needs.

Well, I must say that the time has entirely changed. The occasion for reference that is made to historical and social factors, which led to this disregard of industrial and technical education, has passed away. People belonging to the highest families, to the highest strata of society, are anxious to find careers in other than purely literary vocations, and the

want of such facilities—of such opportunities—is keenly felt by the community. I think it will be admitted by everyone—both by those representing Government here and those representing the people—that the root cause of the present discontent is the fact that there is the want of opportunity for technical and vocational education, which will solve the bread problem, which is now confronting us throughout the length and breadth of India. I think therefore that it is high time that Government should take this matter in hand in right earnest and prepare such a scheme, as they are in a position to do with the aid of their experts, with a view to introducing a comprehensive system of vocational education in this country. My amendment differs from the resolution of Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur in this respect—that I do not agree that Government should be committed to the particular line of action, which he has suggested in his resolution. He has suggested that special classes be opened in every school in this Presidency to give vocational, or whatever you may call it, and technical education. I do not think, Sir, that we should ask Government to commit themselves to that line of action, because I am not quite sure whether that is the practical way of meeting this demand. Workshops may be required and agricultural classes without farms attached to them will be useless. You will have to train teachers as well. I believe there are 600 schools in this Presidency, and I do not know whether you have got 60 competent teachers in this Presidency to teach the different branches of technical education, including agriculture. I think therefore, Sir, that this subject requires very careful consideration on the part of Government, and therefore Government should not be asked to commit themselves to a particular line of action, as suggested by my friend. Further, although I have suggested the appointment of a committee to advise Government in this matter, I think, Sir, that if the Government were to prepare a scheme with the aid of their experts, that is to say, to do the spade work, and publish it for the information not only of the members of this Council but also of the larger public outside, and ask for public opinion on the scheme prepared by Government, perhaps then it may be necessary, in the light of the opinions expressed both here and outside, to appoint a committee to co-ordinate the views that are expressed from different quarters. Therefore, I am prepared, if Government so desire, to omit that portion of my amendment which demands the appointment of a mixed committee at this stage. I am willing to defer it till a scheme is prepared and placed before the public, but I hope, Sir, that the scheme will not only be published, but will be laid before this Council for discussion, and I am sure this large and representative Council—representative of the different interests in this country and of all parts of the Presidency—will take the deepest interest in this question and will be in a position to offer their suggestions, and perhaps the Council may be inclined to appoint a mixed committee to consider the scheme prepared by Government.

I do not think it necessary to enlarge on the subect. The importance of the subject is, I am sure, admitted on all hands, and I do not think that any lengthy speech is necessary to impress it on the Government. I only hope that no time will be lost in giving effect to the wishes of the Council and of the public in this matter. Before the next autumn session of this Council I earnestly hope that a scheme will be published and placed before the Council for consideration.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): I intervene at this stage of the debate, as the object underlying this resolution and the amendment is acceptable to Government. The Government are as conscious of the urgency of this problem as the mover of the resolution and the amendment As we are agreed that it is very desirable to prepare a scheme for the furtherance of vocational education, I and my friends over there talked over the matter informally, and at this stage I desire to place before the Council the amendment which, on behalf of Government, I am prepared to accept. The amendment is this: "That steps be taken for preparing a scheme for the furtherance of vocational education and that practical effect be given to such a scheme as early as possible." If the mover of the original resolution and the mover of the amendment would accept it, I do not propose to detain the Council by lengthening my remarks.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I thankfully accept the amendment.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): I think permission may be given to the mover of the resolution to amend his motion on the lines indicated by the Hon'ble Mr. P C. Mitter. The amended resolution stands thus: "That steps be taken for preparing a scheme for the furtherance of vocational education and that practical effect be given to such a scheme as early as possible." The debate will now proceed on the basis of the amended resolution, if any one wants to speak.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I should like to make one observation in this connection. This very subject has just now been engaging the serious attention of all missionary bodies throughout this country. A commission which was appointed by the Conference of British Missionary Societies in England, presided over by Mr. A. J. Fraser, the son of the late Sir Andrew Fraser, after visiting America, the Philippines, Japan and Ceylon, made an all-India tour throughout this country and their report has now been issued. The booklet is entitled "The Village Education in India." I know that Mr. Hornell and the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education are perfectly aware of this book. I mention for the general information of this Council that there is a large mass of information to be found in this book, and, if I mistake not, the subject will be taken up in right earnest at the end of

this year by the National Missionary Council of India, when provincial reports will be taken up by this Council, and in this very book it has been suggested that there should be co-operation between Government on the one side and the missionary bodies on the other, in order to avoid re-duplication. Where there are well-equipped Government institutions they will be availed of by missionary bodies. I know a huge amount of money is likely to be spent on this subject. People in England are greatly interested in this, though of course this book has been written with one definite object in view, namely, the education and uplifting of the large masses of Indian Christians throughout the country; but the underlying principles are just the same and I hope that the Government will see their way to have some kind of co-operation with missionary bodies in this matter.

With these few remarks, I have very great pleasure in supporting the resolution as amended by the Hon'ble Minister in charge.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): I am in agreement in this matter with my colleague, the Hon'ble Mr. Mitter. I am prepared to have a scheme prepared for the furtherance of vocational education in consultation with him and with the expert heads of departments, such as the Director of Industries and the Director of Agriculture. This Government, Sir, are fully alive to the importance of vocational education, and have already initiated new developments in technical and agricultural education from which they expect satisfactory results. But I recognise the desirability of having a complete scheme drawn up to guide our future developments.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: May I inquire if it is the intention of Government to publish the scheme before giving effect to it?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: Government will have no objection to publish the scheme.

Babu BHISHMADEV DAS: Vocational education is an absolute necessity and should be introduced as soon as possible. It is admitted on all hands that vocational, agricultural, technical and industrial education should be imparted to our students. In the District Boards' Conference His Excellency the Governor has expressed the desire that arangements should be made to introduce vocational training at certain stages of general education. The question of unemployment is a serious question. When poor parents see that their sons are not very useful members after giving them a costly course of education, their disappointment knows no bounds. I therefore support the amendment moved by Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur for the formation of a committee on the lines suggested.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I thank the Hon'ble Minister in charge for his having kindly assured this Council of the preparation of a scheme for vocational education in Bengal. But I am sorry to say,

Sir, that the scheme has already been prepared by Government and the only course left to Government is nothing but to give effect to it as early as possible. It appears from an official report, Sir, that it was in the year 1908 that the Hon'ble Mr. J. G. Cumming recommended the establishment of a technological institute. Then in the year 1912, a Committee was appointed by Government to prepare a scheme. That Committee consisted of official and non-official representatives of the Calcutta University and the Calcutta Corporation. Then, Sir, in the following year, the Government of India represented the matter to the Government of Bengal and Colonel Atkinson and Mr. Dawson were requested to prepare a scheme, and I understand that a scheme was prepared. Then after a few months the Government suggested to Mr. Hornell to prepare a practical scheme, which has already been prepared. The only course left is to give effect to that scheme as early as possible. I am sorry to find, Sir, from an official report that a conference was convened in Belvedere last year and the result of the conference is not so hopeful as I had expected it to be.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: Is my friend speaking on resolution No. 30 about a technological institute?

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: No, I am speaking on the amendment. I beg to submit that instead of the word "early" I should say "immediate steps should be taken."

The PRESIDENT: You have not given notice of any amendment, and the mover of the amendment has accepted the Hon'ble Minister's amendment.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: What I beg to submit is that immediate steps should be taken to give effect to the scheme which has already been prepared by Government and that necessary provision be made in the Budget.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: After what has fallen from the Hon'ble Minister, it is not necessary to go into the details of the necessity of such an institution for this country. My only suggestion for the present to the Hon'ble Minister in charge will be that, like many other schemes that were prepared by Government and were dropped, this should not meet the same fate. It requires a tremendous lot of money and it will be absolutely necessary for the Minister in charge to find out the sources which will give him that much money necessary for the fulfilment of the object we have in view. I do not think I am competent to make suggestions, but I hope he will leave no stone unturned to make this scheme a success, even if it be necessary to borrow money for the purpose.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I may assure Babu Amulya Dhone Addy that although the word "immediate" is not there, we shall not lose any time in preparing the scheme.

As regards the observations of Maulvi Ekramul Huq, I may say that we are fully conscious that, in order that the scheme may be effective, the financial side of it must not be ignored, and when the time comes and when the scheme is published, I shall deem it a great pleasure to have helpful suggestions not only from the members of this Council but from the public outside.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I know that the Hon'ble Minister in charge is fully aware of his responsibility, and I am quite confident that he will do all that lies in his power to give full effect to the scheme as early as possible

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I accept the amendment which has been suggested by the Hon'ble Minister, but as I have said, Sir, I understand—and I want it to be clearly understood,—at least that is my view,—that the scheme when prepared will be laid before the Council. There is another point on which I must lay special emphasis and that is this. Whatever scheme may be prepared by Government, I hope it will be a comprehensive scheme regardless of the money that is at present at the disposal of Government, either this year or next year; it may be a progressive scheme, like another university for imparting technical education in this Presidency. I hope that will be borne in mind and that the preparation of the scheme will not be restricted to the amount of money that may be at the disposal of Government. We want a complete scheme.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I am very thankful to the Minister in charge of Education for proposing certain modifications to the resolution which I have already submitted to the Council There has been a discussion as to the meaning of the words "as early as possible," I take it that Government will give practical effect to the scheme not only in Calcutta but also in rural Bengal. Calcutta is not Bengal So my object is that Government will be pleased to give full effect to the scheme which is under preparation as soon as possible in every part of the province.

With these words I again submit to the Minister and also to the Council that effect be given to the scheme as early as possible.

The amendment was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The amended resolution was then put and carried.

Postponement of Resolutions.

The PRESIDENT: I am sorry to say that Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur is ill and is absent from the Council. He has asked me to postpone his resolution about the establishment of an agricultural and technological institute, and under the proviso to rule 74 (2) I have agreed to postpone the resolution to the meeting of the 4th March.

The next resolution covers a large part of the ground of the resolution of Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, and it is desirable that

these two should be taken up together. The mover of the next resolution, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, has also agreed to postpone his resolution, and that is also postponed to the meeting of the 4th March.

Rai HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: May I inquire whether it would be within the power of anybody else to move the resolution in the absence of the proposer, Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur?

The PRESIDENT: It is in my power to allow the resolution to be moved by another member or to postpone it, but having regard to the fact that I have already decided, to allow a postponement, I postpone the resolution.

Price Lists of Jute, etc.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "This Council recommends to the Government to take steps to circulate in Bengali, to all the union boards, municipalities, and co-operative societies of Bengal, weekly statements of the price of jute, cotton, oilseeds and other country produce, prevailing in the foreign importing markets."

This is a very simple proposal, and I sincerely hope that the Council will accept this suggestion.

The main object with which I move this resolution is to give the agriculturists accurate information about the price of their commodities in foreign markets, so that they may not be cheated by, or placed at the mercy of, middlemen and profiteers, and also that they may decide on the basis of accurate information which crops to grow and to what extent. In short, I want the peasant to be placed on a footing of equal advantage in his dealings with the buyers of his produce, which he is not at the present time. In the course of the discussion about the resolution regarding the proposed restriction of the growth of jute at yesterday's Council meeting, I think, Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri said that the cultivator was a shrewd and intelligent man and knew his business well. I quite agree with him as far as his shrewdness and common sense are concerned, but mere shrewdness does not carry a man very far. He must have knowledge and education, so that he may utilise his natural intelligence to the best advantage. But unfortunately our cultivators are lacking in that knowledge and information, which alone can guide them along the right way about their own business. How is the cultivator to get that knowledge and information? This Council well knows the extremely poor state of education that unfortunately prevails in this country. The peasant has practically hardly any education to speak of. If he were as well educated as his brethren in other countries, like England, America or Japan, then he might himself have studied the market reports and found out for himself what price his commodities were fetching in the foreign markets of the world. In America or Japan, the agriculturist always knows what price his produce is fetching in outside markets and

can hold on or sell out according as circumstances require. The wheat and cotton growers of America always keep in touch with foreign market quotations and know their position fairly well, but here, in India and consequently in Bengal, the poor peasant is quite at the mercy of the middlemen. He does not know what price the merchants and middlemen are getting at the foreign importing markets for his goods, and he has to be content with whatever the middlemen choose to pay him. Is it not an extraordinary thing, Sir, that in Bengal, where jute is practically a monopoly of the cultivator, the price is dictated not by the cultivator but by the merchants and middlemen? It is all very well to trot out the threadbare argument of supply and demand but, whereas the merchants know what the supply is going to be, the producer does not know what the demand will be. What an unequal fight, and all this because a cultivator, though a shrewd man, has not the requisite knowledge.

The Government is already doing the arduous task of supplying useful information to the merchants and middlemen. The Bengal Government, through their Agricultural Department, take particular pains to publish forecasts of the supply likely to come into the market—forecasts, preliminary as well as final, of jute, cereals, pulses and oil-seeds. This is practically for the benefit of the foreign buyers and middlemen and is done in good time long before these products come into the market. Information is published mainly in English, which is Greek even to the educated agriculturist. The effect is that the foreign buyers are in a position of advantage, because they are able to anticipate what supplies they are going to have. If forecasts of supplies are to be published at all, I hope the Government will see that they are published in Bengali also. But what really concerns the producer of jute, cereals and oil-seeds is that a forecast of the demand of the foreign markets is also published, so that he may decide how much of any of these commodities he has to produce and bring to market with advantage, raising the price to the maximum and drawing the maximum amount of profit. These forecasts can be easily calculated, if foreign prices of commodities are compared from week to week and from year to year. For want of these guiding factors, the Bengal peasant has to produce blindly, often growing more or less of any commodity, so that he cannot sell all that he produces or falls short of what he might sell with the utmost advantage. This blindness is indeed one of the numerous causes of scarcity in India, for, as it often happens, and as it happened last year, the Bengal peasant produced more jute than there was market for. If the jute growers had always been supplied with information regarding the price of jute every year, he might easily have compared the price in March last with the price in the previous years and he would not have grown as much jute as he actually did. He would have produced more rice, and there might not have been any scarcity at all. Let us take the case of tea, for instance. The tea producer is always in touch with

the foreign market-prices of tea and varies his supply accordingly. I know it to be a fact that on account of the dull state of the tea market this year, many gardens are deliberately producing less tea and some gardens have even burnt some of their stock of tea. If they had got no information about the price in foreign markets, they would have gone on blindly producing as much tea as they could and their position would have been much more critical than now. They would have been in the same boat as the peasants in Bengal, who grew jute and such other things.

Let us now turn to another aspect of the case. In reply to a question of mine, Government supplied me with figures, day before yesterday, about the export of the chief products of Bengal. I shall only quote the figures for the last official year.

In 1919-20, the quantity of raw jute exported was 586,168 tons, raw cotton, 26,738 tons, rice, 91,236 tons and oil-seeds, 160,813 tons. Total 8½ lakh tons, or about 2½ crore maunds of raw materials were exported.

I simply shudder to think what enormous profit the middlemen have made out of this huge amount of export. I know from the prices published in *Commerce* and some other papers that last year cotton, rice and oil-seeds were sold at a very high price in foreign markets. If the cultivators knew what the exact prices of these commodities were, he would certainly not have been at the mercy of the middlemen. If he could get an extra price of 4 annas per maund, he would have been richer by 60 lakhs of rupees. Let us pause to consider what this means. Does this Council wish that this 60 lakhs should go to the pocket of the middlemen or to the pocket of the peasant?

Yesterday the Council decided that Government should not interfere with the liberty of the cultivator in the matter of choosing which crop to grow. I have no quarrel with that decision, but surely, it is the duty of Government to supply the cultivator with accurate information as to what price his produce is getting in the foreign markets. In an agricultural country like Bengal, this seems to me to be the primary duty of Government. Let Government supply the information and then let the cultivator decide for himself which crop to grow and to what extent. Without this information, without this knowledge, the cultivator, with all his shrewdness, is just at the mercy of the foreign buyers, middlemen and profiteers.

Now the question arises how to supply this information to the cultivator. As I have said before, if the cultivator had education the matter would have been very much simplified, but unfortunately education in this country is extremely backward, and, until and unless things are materially changed, the cultivator cannot be approached directly. We can, however, take the help of the three agencies I have mentioned,

which are in the closest touch with the people. Union boards and co-operative credit societies are mainly composed of educated agriculturists or their representatives. If these agencies are supplied with a list of prices every week in Bengali, these can reach the peasant in the village in the most convenient way possible. The co-operative credit societies and union boards have great potentialities for the improvement of the cultivator. The information about prices supplied to them will be a source of great power to the peasant. As regards towns-people and cultivators living in towns, they can be approached through municipalities, and therefore I have included these bodies in the scope of my resolution.

Then comes the question of cost and how to get the information. Papers like *Commerce*, *Capital* and some other papers get this information without much difficulty. Reuter's agency may be utilised by Government for this purpose. As far as I have been able to calculate, I think in the near future there would not be more than 10,000 union boards, co-operative societies and municipalities all combined together. During the 52 weeks in the year 5 lakhs of hand-bills would have to be sent out. Taking the postage at half an anna per hand-bill and the cost of staff, paper and printing I worked out the whole amount to about Rs. 30,000. This is really a very small sum considering the immense benefit that the majority of the agriculturists will derive from this scheme. With these words, I commend this resolution to the acceptance of the Council.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: I need not hardly tell the Council that I have great pleasure in supporting the resolution which has just been placed before the House.

Yesterday I had the misfortune to bring before the House a resolution for the reduction of the area of sowings so far as jute was concerned. In the course of the debate it transpired that the sense of some of the members was that peasants were sufficiently capable of taking care of themselves and protecting their interests. Upon this resolution the Hon'ble Minister was pleased to make a statement that it was the look-out of the peasants themselves, that they understood their interests, and he expressed his sympathy with them on behalf of Government.

This resolution conveys a request to a sympathetic Government to supply information to the peasants regarding the price of jute, cotton, oilseeds, and other country produce. Let them have this information in order that they may protect their own interests. This is an extremely modest demand. Mr. Montagu and His Excellency the Viceroy have expressed the view—their deliberate conviction—that the peasants are steeped in ignorance, but the sense of this Council was the very reverse of it. I will assume that Mr. Montagu and His Excellency the Viceroy held an enormous view on the matter; but I venture to say with confidence that, in the absence of information as to what is the

extent of the demand for his produce by the manufacturers and by the foreign ports, it is impossible for the cultivator to know what quantity it would be necessary to produce, in order that the demand and supply might balance each other. At the present moment the price of jute has dropped to the level of Rs. 5 per maund. As most of you know, a bigha of land produces only 5 maunds of jute, and calculating the value of this yield of jute at Rs. 5 per maund, we find that the peasant can get only Rs. 25 out of every bigha of land on which he grows jute. Look at the other side of the picture. If he grows paddy in that bigha of land what does he get? The yield of rice per bigha of land is 6 maunds at least; the peasants might get from 1 bigha of rice-grown land Rs. 42 calculating the price of rice at Rs. 7 per maund I refer to this matter only to show that the cultivators do not understand their own interests and that they do not get sufficient information on a subject upon which their very livelihood depends. There is no doubt that the supply is considerably in excess of the demand, and, if the peasants were taught to regulate their produce according to local and foreign demand, their position would not be so precarious and miserable.

My friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, in his resolution merely makes a demand for the supply of information to a class of men who have not the slightest tincture of education and who need it most.

With these words, I support this resolution.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: To my mind there cannot indeed be any question as to the importance of the resolution. It is absolutely necessary that the peasantry should know their own interests. The hon'ble the mover of the resolution aims at arming them against the cunning of the middlemen. Hitherto the peasants were quite an inarticulate class, but fortunately for them, through the support of their votes, many persons have been able to get a seat in the Council, and it is up to them, as the representatives of this inarticulate class, to press their interests before the House.

As the question of providing the peasantry with information as to the actual state of the market, in which their produce can fetch the best value, is an important one and necessary for their welfare, I hope the whole House will not at all find it difficult to agree to what is contained in the resolution of the mover and that Government will accept it.

Maulvi SHAH ABDUR RAUF: It is with great pleasure that I beg to support the resolution moved by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta. One who has got any idea of the village life in Bengal and of the wretched condition of the agriculturists knows full well how these illiterate people are duped by middlemen who make a large profit out of the labours of these poor agriculturists. Moreover, these people are deep in debt and cannot sell their articles to their highest advantage; the *mahajans* to whom they are heavily indebted always buy up

their produce at very cheap rates; now, if these agriculturists had any idea of the price of their produce, they could easily have disposed of them to their own advantage.

If this resolution is accepted by the Government and by the House as well, you will see what immense good will result from it.

In this connection, I would beg leave to suggest that in order to facilitate the receipt of these leaflets, over and above the three agencies mentioned in this resolution, the village headman of each thana, too, be provided with a leaflet so that it might reach the right quarters.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: My friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, has brought forward his proposal no doubt with the best of motives. Sir, coming here as a representative of this city, I am very loath to do anything or to take any step that might offend our mufassal friends and especially because I myself feel that I have not got that knowledge of the mufassal which members coming from the mufassal have. That is the reason why I am very diffident in my support or even in my opposition to this motion But there is one thing which I have not been able to understand and I would like to say a few words upon that My friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta (mover), and our friend Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy, who has supported the motion, have been eloquent about the cultivators being enriched with this information; but what I have failed to understand is how leaflets, even if written in Bengali and circulated to the union boards, municipalities and co-operative societies, would reach the cultivators. I hope when my friend gets an opportunity to reply he will explain that to us.

Sir, nobody is more conversant than Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta with the fact that most of the cultivators are illiterate people. May I inquire from him how these illiterate people will be able to read, even if written in Bengali, the leaflets which he wants the Government to circulate? I personally feel that this may serve a good purpose only after we extend primary education and teach the cultivators the A.B.C. of the Bengali language. But before doing so, to issue leaflets even in our vernaculars, though it might be a good project, would not serve the purpose for which it is meant.

Then my friend has suggested that the expenditure would come up to Rs 30,000 May I ask my friend to consider whether this sum could not be more usefully spent on spreading education among these people, so that within a short time they might improve by lessons of primary education and go to places where this information could be obtained for nothing? Under the conditions at present obtaining, I am afraid, that the leaflet which the unions and societies may receive will find their way to the waste paper basket; for if I am not far wrong, there must be a great gulf between union boards, municipalities and co-operative credit societies, and the cultivator, in the field.

I am very anxious, Sir, that these cultivators should not be despoiled of their just rights; nobody is more anxious in this matter than myself and I hope that every possible help will be given to these cultivators to produce and sell their articles to the greatest advantage to themselves. But the state of things has not so developed that any advantage can be gained from the proposal which the mover asks the Government to take up.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I must oppose this resolution. It will be admitted that if such a statement is to be of any use at all, it must be accurate, intelligible and up to date. Government have no means of preparing such a statement. In the autumn of 1914, after the outbreak of war when the cultivators of Eastern Bengal were thrown into consternation by a collapse of the jute market, the Government of Bengal thought that the situation might be improved, if periodical statements showing the price of jute in Calcutta were circulated among the cultivators. The idea had to be abandoned owing to the difficulty of obtaining reliable figures. If this difficulty was felt in obtaining the Calcutta prices, it would be greatly enhanced in the case of the prices prevailing in foreign markets. The Director of Statistics compiles statements of the prices in certain foreign markets of a number of articles, including those enumerated in the resolution. But these statements are prepared from periodicals received by post. The figures are therefore belated and of value for statistical purposes only. Moreover, the prices quoted do not in many cases refer to articles of Indian origin. I do not think that the circulation of statements of the kind suggested by the mover would in any circumstances serve a practical purpose, but certainly it is not desirable that Government should circulate figures which may be out of date and misleading.

Certain information regarding the prices of Indian exports in foreign markets is cabled out to this country in Reuter's Foreign Market Reports. This information is already available to the public, as it is published in the daily papers. But it is of value mainly to the great wholesale and exporting firms of Calcutta and would be of no use to the cultivator. As an example, Sir, I quote the following report which was published recently under the heading "Jute":—"Daisee No. 2, new group Dundee, January-February £32-10-10, actuals, 1st marks Dundee January-February £36-10-0, sellers." Doubtless this report is of value to jute brokers and exporters, but I confess that it conveys no information to me, and even if it could be translated into intelligible Bengali, I am sure that it would neither benefit nor interest the cultivator. These, Sir, are the two sources from which an attempt might be made to compile a statement of the kind proposed, but I think it is clear that such a statement would be of no practical value to the classes among whom it

would be circulated. The cost of preparing and circulating these statements to municipalities, union boards and co-operative societies (which alone number roughly 6,000) would be very considerable and would be money thrown away, while, as we have learned from the Budget which was presented to the Council on Monday, we are in no position to indulge in extravagances. In the circumstances which I have explained I hope that the mover will withdraw this resolution.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I am glad that I have got the support of the mufassal members; that was only natural; and I am most glad that I have heard the speech made by Dr. Haridhan Dutt; that is just what I expected from a Calcutta member. However, it is evident from what he has said, that he does not know what 6,000 co-operative societies are doing in Bengal. In these societies, taking on an average of nearly 30 members per society, there are nearly 2 lakhs of agriculturists who are taking advantage of these societies, who are learning through the office-bearers of those societies the benefits of co-operation. They are learning how banking is done, how to keep accounts and control expenditure and many other useful things from these societies. If these societies were conversant with information as to the daily price and fluctuations in the price of goods produced in this country, all these 2 lakhs of members would get the information the next day. Perhaps Dr. Haridhan Dutt does not know, that these co-operative banks sometimes get circulars in Bengali from the Department of Co-operative Societies: they circulate these to all members who are put in possession of all the information contained in these circulars. Every month, there are meetings of these societies, and the members discuss these matters; they then discuss with the village people in turn any information as to the fluctations in the price of jute, oilseeds and other country produce. All this is of prime interest to them, and, if they know how the markets are fluctuating, they, in turn, inform the village unions. Perhaps my friend does not know that in the villages, in the cool of the evening after the day's work many of the people sit together over their *hookahs* and talk over these matters. I hope he is satisfied that this information, if supplied to all these co-operative societies, will be really circulated among the agriculturists.

As regards union boards, perhaps it is not known that they are composed entirely of the representatives of these agriculturists. They have been formed for the benefit of the agriculturists. If there is any cause for their existence at all, it is their duty to circulate information of this nature among the villagers. If they do not do this, there is no reason for their existence; they ought to be abolished.

Then he says that the motion is premature and that it ought to be taken up after primary education has been spread among the masses. If we are to wait till then, we will have to wait for a century. For example, I happen to be connected with one of the small municipalities—not anything so large as your Corporation—and there, along with

Mr. Biss, we discussed the problem of primary education for the small town of Comilla. We found that to start some small schools in Comilla, we required Rs. 24,000 capital expenditure and Rs. 10,000 recurring expenditure. The municipal commissioners decided that as waterworks were more important, they could not now pay anything for primary education. Thus, the question of primary education has been dished, and is likely to be dished indefinitely if the municipalities are in need of money for other objects. So far as the Government are concerned, I am afraid Government will find it very hard to find any money for primary education, especially with a budget which shows a deficit of 2 crores.

Then, Sir, he says that Rs. 30,000, which I have suggested will be required for this purpose, might be utilised for primary education. This is a mere drop in the ocean. You cannot do anything with this sum, as the number of municipal towns, village unions and district boards is too numerous. Information through the co-operative societies will be of immense advantage to all the peasantry in Bengal.

I am sorry that the Minister in charge of Agriculture has thought fit to oppose this resolution. I never expected it. From what I can gather from the sense of the Council, the mufassal members, at least, are unanimously of opinion that such information would be of the greatest use to the peasantry. What are the grounds for opposing it? He says that the information would not be accurate, would not be intelligible. I believe, Sir, there is a Director of Statistics who is being paid a very high salary. What is he doing? His primary duty is to see that this information is accurate. The Minister says that the Director does get information, but that concerns produce which is not of Indian origin. What business has he to draw his pay from India, if he cannot supply particulars of articles of Indian produce? About prices, the Hon'ble the Minister has been pleased to say that if they were obtained by post, they would be out of date. I suggest that arrangements might be made with Reuter's Telegram Company to send this information by telegram. I believe that some of the newspapers, *Commerce*, *Capital*, etc., have made such an arrangement and they are able to get this information. I do not see why Government should not take this trouble for the benefit of the agriculturists; it is no trouble at all it is only part of their duty.

The Hon'ble the Minister in charge read out some reports which he said he could not himself understand. I confess, Sir, I do not understand these reports. The way in which these reports are published in the papers shows that they are not meant to be understood by the agriculturists. They are mainly for the benefit of the exporters; that is my complaint. I want them to be published for the benefit of our own men.

Then he said that the cost would be very considerable. What is the cost? I have myself made some calculations; I went to considerable

trouble in making these calculations, and I find the amount is n more than Rs. 30,000. Surely this is not a very large sum to spend f the benefit of lakhs of agriculturists; Government spends 11 crores ove a budget; surely they can afford to spend Rs. 30,000 for the agricu turists who represent the majority of the population of Bengal. An zamindar could spend Rs. 30,000 for the benefit of his own tenants. cannot conceive why the Bengal Government should say that Rs. 30,00 is a big sum to spend for the benefit of so many agriculturists. I is not fair; it is intolerable.

With these words, I beg to commend the resolution for th acceptance of Government

A division was then taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Muhammad
Basu, Rai Bahadur Nalinaksha.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Faroqui, Mr. K. G. M.
Chatak, Rai Sahib Nilmani.
Chose, Mr. D. C.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Maitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Manendra Chandra
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish. Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilall Singh.
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.

NOES.

Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Cathcart, Mr. M.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Gordon, Mr. A. D.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Marr, Mr. A.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
O'Malley, Mr L. S. S.
Raheem, Mr. Abdur.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Travers, Mr. W. L.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 54 and the Noes 20, the resolution was carried.

The PRESIDENT: Before we adjourn, I may mention that I understand Mr. Kerr wishes to make a statement with reference to a matter which has been engaging the attention of the Council.

The Tramway Strike.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Mr Kerr): I am glad to be able to announce that the Calcutta Tramways strike has been settled. The terms of settlement are as follows:—

"The men will return to work to-morrow morning, with the exception of one driver whom the Company is not willing to take back.

"Allowance will be made during the first week after work is resumed for those men who have gone home during the strike; men who resume duty within a week will receive on the 1st March, or as soon as possible thereafter, the pay for the days they worked during the month of January before the strike began.

"The Company will investigate the grievances set forth in the unsigned petition which was received by the Company on the 25th of January, and will announce their decision within one week of the resumption of work. If the men are dissatisfied with the Company's decision, Government will, within one week of receiving information as to such dissatisfaction from the representatives of the strikers, constitute a committee to investigate their grievances."

I think these terms are satisfactory to both sides. There is one thing I should like to add. I know that this question has raised much interest both in this Council and outside it, and I am grateful to the Council for the forbearance they have shown in abstaining from discussing the matter while the negotiations were in progress.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned to Monday, the 28th February, 1921, at 3 P.M.

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report of the First Session.)

VOLUME I—No. 4.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Monday, the 28th February, 1921, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 98 nominated and elected members.

President's Speech.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): We meet here to-day under the shadow of a great misfortune. The greatest Bengali—nay, the greatest Indian of his age—passed away last night, leaving us to-day much poorer than we were when we last met. Sir Rash Behari Ghose was a man of whom any country in the world may be proud. In Bengal he has filled every place of honour, and, wherever he has gone, he has left the impress of a great and powerful mind. He was for years a member of the Bengal Legislative Council as well as of the Imperial Council. His work here as well as in the other Council is well known to the country. Of a life so eventful it is difficult to speak without preparation and it would be wrong to pick up only a few facts and to dwell on them. A great deal will be said, and from every platform, of his great personal qualifications and of the services which he rendered to the country. That task I would leave to others better fitted to discharge it. I was for over twenty-five years in intimate touch with him. I think I voice the sentiment of this Council and of the people of Bengal in general when I say that take any phase of his character, take him as a scholar, as a jurist, as a benefactor of his country, or as a patriot, he was the greatest Bengali of his age and towered far above the rest. Our only consolation is that he has died full of years and full of honours, and a grateful country mourns his loss. I propose with the permission of this Council to convey to

his brother and through him to the other members of his family an expression of our great sympathy with them in their bereavement.

I ought also to mention that a representation was made to me by several members of this Council to adjourn the Council on this occasion. As I could find no precedent of this kind and this day was specially fixed by His Excellency for certain Government business, I did not see my way to adjourn the Council. I hope, however, you will show your respect for the deceased by carrying this resolution in silence standing in your places.

The resolution was carried in silence, all members standing.

Starred Question

(to which an oral answer was given).

Additional Legal Remembrancer.

***Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to say whether it is true that a few years ago when the number of political *détenus* and suspects was very large and their cases very complicated sanction was obtained from the Secretary of State for the creation of a special post under the designation of "Additional Legal Remembrancer" to deal exclusively with political cases at a salary of Rs. 3,500 a month?

(*b*) Is it true that on the release of the *détenus* on a general amnesty by His Majesty the King-Emperor and for want of a sufficient number of political cases this officer is now being employed in ordinary criminal cases?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking early steps to abolish this special post?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (*a*) The Additional Legal Remembrancer was appointed to deal not only with political cases but also with cases of organised crime, of commercial fraud and with such other important prosecutions as might be entrusted to him by Government. The pay of the post was at first Rs. 2,500 a month, which was recently been increased to Rs. 2,500—100—3,000 a month. His present salary is Rs. 2,900.

(*b*) He is employed in important criminal prosecutions relating to organised crime and commercial fraud and also difficult and important cases of the Excise Department.

(*c*) The retention of this post for one year from 1st February, 1921, has been sanctioned by the Government of India recently. The question whether the post should be abolished or retained and, if so, in what form, will be examined in the light of further experience.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Expenses of the Bengal Secretariat.

1. Maulvi ABDUL KARIM: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the expenses of the Bengal Secretariat, including the superior, ministerial and menial staffs of each Department for the Reserved and Transferred subjects separately under the following heads:—

(*i*) designation of office;
(*ii*) salary of each officer, with allowance, if any;
(*iii*) whether held by European or Indian?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): It is impossible to show the expenses of each Department for the Reserved and Transferred subjects separately, as some Departments deal with both Reserved and Transferred subjects. A statement is laid on the table, showing the cost of the establishment of each Department.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 1.

RESERVED DEPARTMENTS.

(Appointment, Political, Police, Ecclesiastical, and European Education.)

NAME.	Designation.	Salary.	Total amount.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
OFFICERS.				
1. The Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S.	Member	5,333 5 4		
2. Mr. H. L. Stephenson, C.I.E., I.C.S.	Chief Secretary	2,750 0 0		
3. Mr. A. Cassells, I.C.S.	Officer on Special duty.	2,060 0 0		
4. Mr. T. M. Steven, I.C.S.	Under Secretary	1,050 0 0		
5. Rai Sahib Brojendramohan Gupta	Registrar ..	750 0 0		
			12,943 5 4	
ESTABLISHMENT.				
6. Total amount for clerks*	..	1[illegible],933 10 4		
7. Total amount for menials	.	464 0 0		*All Indians except 7 Anglo-Indians.
			15,497 10 4	

RESERVED DEPARTMENTS.

(Finance, Separate Revenue, Commerce and Reserved Industrial subjects and Marine.)

NAME.	Designation.	Salary.	Total amount.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
OFFICERS.				
1. The Hon'ble Mr. John Henry Kerr, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.	Member	5,333 5 4		
2. Mr. A. Mair, I.C.S.	Secretary	2,250 0 0		
3. Mr. G. H. W. Davies	Special Officer	1,500 0 0		
4. Mr. R. Douglas, I.C.S.	Under Secretary	1,100 0 0		
5. Rai Sahib Harisadhan Mukherjea, M.A.	Registrar	650 0 0		
			11,833 5 4	
ESTABLISHMENT.				
6. Total amount for clerks		9,652 1 4		
7. Total amount for menials		714 13 6		* All Indians except 2 Anglo-Indians
			10,366 14 10	

RESERVED DEPARTMENTS.

(Judicial, Jails, etc.)

NAME.	Designation.	Salary.	Total amount.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
OFFICERS.				
1. The Hon'ble Sir Abdur-Rahim, K.C.	Member ...	5,333 5 4	5,333 5 4	
2. Mr. N. Gupta, I.C.S.	Secretary ...	2,250 0 0	2,250 0 0	Draws pay as Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs.
ESTABLISHMENT.				
3. Total amount for clerks	...	2,321 1 6		
4. Total amount for menials	...	75 0 0		
			2,396 1 6	

TRANSFERRED DEPARTMENTS.

(Local Self-Government and Public Health.)

NAME	Designation.	Salary.	Total amount.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
OFFICERS.		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
1. The Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, K.T.	Minister	5,333 5 4		
2. Mr. L. S. S. O'Malley, I.C.S. ...	Secretary ...	2,750 0 0		
3. Babu Girish Chandra Sen	Officer on Special Duty	600 0 0		
4. Rai Sahib Rebatimohan Das, M.A.	Registrar ...	750 0 0	12,243 5 4	
ESTABLISHMENT.				
5. Total amount for clerks	...	4,239 2 9		
6. Total amount for menials	.....	171 11 11	4,410 14 8	

TRANSFERRED DEPARTMENTS.

(Education.)

NAME.	Designation	Salary	Total amount.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
OFFICERS.		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
1. The Hon'ble Mr. Provash Chunder Mitter, C.I.E.	Minister ...	5,333 5 4	5,333 5 4	
2. Mr. W. W. Hornell, C.I.E. ...	Deputy Secretary	2,600 0 0	2,600 0 0	Draws pay as the Director of Public Instruction
ESTABLISHMENT.				
3. Total amount for clerks		3,397 1 3		
4. Total amount for menials	... ...	69 0 0	3,466 1 3	

TRANSFERRED DEPARTMENTS.

(Agriculture and Industries.)

NAME.	Designation.	Salary.	Total amount	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
OFFICERS		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
1 The Hon'ble the Nawab Sayyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur.	Minister ...	5,333 5 4		
2 Mr. J. A. L. Swain, I.C.S.	Officer on Special Duty	2,560 0 0		
3 Maulvi Muhammad Chaimuddin .	Officer on Special Duty	600 0 0		
			8,593 5 4	
ESTABLISHMENT				
4. Total amount for clerks . .	.	1,814 5 1		
5 Total amount for menials	.	145 0 0		
			1,959 5 1	

RESERVED DEPARTMENTS.

(Land Revenue, Land Acquisition and Forests etc.)

NAME.	Designation.	Salary.	Total amount	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
OFFICERS.		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
1 The Hon'ble Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan.	Member .	5,333 5 4		
2. Mr. W. S. Hopkins, I.C.S., O.B.E.	Secretary ..	2,500 0 0		
3 Khan Bahadur Syed Abdul Latiff, B.L.	Under Secretary	750 0 0		
4 Rai Sahib Narendranath Chatterjee, B.A.	Registrar ..	750 0 0		
			9,333 5 4	
ESTABLISHMENT				
5. Total amount for clerks* ..	.	5,928 10 11		* All Indians except 2 Anglo-Indians.
6 Total amount for menials	.....	158 3 11	6,086 14 10	

List of officers and establishment of the Legislative Department as standing on 3rd January, 1921.

	Designation.	Name	Salary	Remarks
	GAZETTED STAFF		Per mensem Rs	
1	Secretary, Bengal Legislative Council and Secretary to the Government of Bengal	C. Tindall, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S.	2,500 0 P. A. 200 0	
2	Assistant Secretary Bengal Legislative Council, and Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal	A. M. Hutchison, Esq., M.A. (Cantab.)	810 0	
3	Additional Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal	K. N. Majumdar, Esq., M.A. (Cantab.)	600 0	This post is temporary up to 31st March 1921
4	Registrar, Bengal Legislative Council	J. W. McKay, Esq.	600 0 H. A. 175 0	
	NON-GAZETTED AND NON-MINISTERIAL STAFF			
5	Legal Assistant ...	Mr. Monomohan Mukherjee, B.L.	400 0	
	MINISTERIAL OFFICERS			
	Total salary and allowances of ministerial establishment	.....	1,201 8	All Indians except one Anglo-Indian
	Total salary and allowance of menial establishment	.....	362 0	
			1,563 8	

Public Works Department (Irrigation Branch) (Reserved)

Member in charge—

The Hon'ble Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., C.I.E., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan

Per mensem Rs. A. P.

Secretary—

Rai Amar Nath Das Bahadur (Offg.)
Salary ... 3,000 0 0

Public Works Department. (Roads and Buildings Branch) (Transferred.)

Minister in charge—

The Hon'ble Nawab Sayyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur.

Per mensem Rs. A. P.

Secretary—

Mr. C. P. Walsh
Salary 3,250 0 0

Public Works Department. (Irrigation Branch.) (Reserved.)	Per mensem. Rs. A. P.	Public Works Department. (Roads and Buildings Branch.) (Transferred.)	Per mensem Rs. A. P.
Under-Secretary—		Under Secretary—	
Mr. G. J. St. C. Sedgley		Vacant (at present)	
Salary	... 1,907 14 8	Assistant Secretary and Deputy Secretary—	
		Mr. C. B. Bayley	
		Salary	... 1,257 14 8
	10,244 4 0		9,841 4 0

Registration Department for Reserved and Transferred Branches.

	Per mensem. R. A. P.
Mr. A. W. Davis	
Salary ...	... 675 0 0
GRAND TOTAL	20,757 8 0

	Per mensem R. A. P.	
Total salary and allowances of ministerial establishment.	12,059 13 3	All Indians except 8 Anglo-Indians
Total salary and allowances of menial establishment	541 8 0	
	12,601 5 3	

Malaria in the Vishnupur subdivision.

2. Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, are being taken for the suppression of malaria in the subdivision of Vishnupur?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the number of deaths from all causes that occurred in the subdivision of Vishnupur during the last three years, specifying the number of deaths in each year?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): (*a*) The District Board of Bankura contemplates the appointment from next year of two itinerant doctors who will for the most part work in the subdivision of Vishnupur and distribute quinine amongst the poor. The Board also propose to treat school children in a selected area of the subdivision with

prophylactic doses of quinine during next year. There are seven dispensaries in the subdivision, and during the last three years 112, 143 and 131 pounds respectively of quinine were distributed in the form of medical treatment to malaria patients attending them. During 1919-20 Government made a grant of 33 pounds of quinine and 66 pounds of cinchona febrifuge to assist the local authorities, in 1920-21 a similar grant of 38 pounds of quinine and 76 pounds of cinchona febrifuge was made by Government.

As soon as the union boards are formed within the subdivision the District Board propose to depute their Sanitary Inspector to help the union boards to adopt measures for the improvement of sanitation in their respective areas.

(*b*) The figures are reported by the Sanitary Commissioner to be as follows:—

Year	Number of deaths
1918	22,942
1919	11,035
1920	9,608

Irrigation works in the Vishnupur subdivision.

3. Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state what progress, if any, has been made in the irrigation works which have been undertaken by the Salbund, Deshbund and Bankada Irrigation Societies in the subdivision of Vishnupur, as also the period within which the said works may be expected to be completed.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): There is a proposal to establish a Co-operative Society at Salbund to prepare and maintain a dam for irrigation purposes. On the 4th December, 1920, the Superintending Engineer, Central Circle, wrote that he would give the District Engineer instructions for the preparation of the project. The applicants for the registration of the Society are awaiting the detailed plans before subscribing their shares.

The Bankada irrigation scheme has been abandoned after inquiry by the Assistant Registrar, and the plan and estimate of the scheme put forward by the Deshbund Irrigation Society are being examined by the District Engineer.

Projects of the Sanitary Board.

4. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be

pleased to state which of the recommended projects of the Sanitary Board the Government contemplate carrying out in 1921-22 and at what approximate cost?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 4, showing the projects recommended by the Sanitary Board to be carried out during the year 1921-22.

	Name of Schemes	Approximate amount to be spent in 1921-22
		Rs.
1.	Dacca town sewerage*	5,00,000
2.	Dacca University area sewerage*	50,000
3.	Comilla water-works*	50,000
4.	Naihati water-supply and Garda extension	10,000
5.	Patuakhali water-supply	5,000
6.	Basirhat drainage	5,000
7.	Chittagong water-supply	75,000

* In progress.

Water hyacinth.

5. Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries been drawn to the difficulty and inconvenience of communication caused to the people and the damage done to the crops by water hyacinth?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what steps have already been taken and what further steps Government contemplate taking to exterminate this danger?

(*c*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister been drawn to the pollution of drinking water by the water hyacinth?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that this pollution is a contributory cause to the periodical outbreaks of cholera and other epidemics which occur in these parts of Bengal?

(*e*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what steps are being taken to preserve tanks from the encroachment of the plant?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The member is referred to the answers given to the unstarred questions Nos. 26 and 34 asked by Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy, M.L.C., and Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, M.L.C., respectively, at the Council meeting held on the 7th February last.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative. Cholera is contracted by swallowing a germ derived from the discharges of a cholera patient or carrier, most frequently in polluted water, but sometimes in contaminated food. The disease is almost invariably spread in Bengal by water polluted with human excreta, and, so far as Government are aware such pollution is not effected by the presence of water hyacinth. So far as malaria is concerned, it is possible that water hyacinth may be of some value, for water thickly covered with it rarely shows anopheles larvæ.

(*c*) Copies of Revenue Department circulars Nos. 5381-85, dated the 3rd July, 1919, and Nos. 2407-14 Agri., dated the 26th February, 1920, are laid on the table. The following extracts from the reports of the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of district boards in 1919-20 show the action taken by district boards:—

Burdwan Division. The attention of the district boards was drawn during the year to the desirability of adopting by-laws on the lines of that adopted by the Dacca district board for the eradication of water hyacinth. The Birbhum and Hooghly district boards have decided to frame by-laws accordingly, and their applications for the necessary sanction are awaited. While proposing tentatively to adopt a similar by-law, the Midnapore district board is inclined to doubt the legality of the rule, and it has asked for the advice of the Government pleader in the matter. The board is also inclined to think the task stupendous. The necessity for taking action in the matter is however obvious.

Presidency Division. Practically no progress was made during the year towards removing this pest, except within the jurisdiction of the Sadar local board in the district of Nadia, where it was removed from a *bil* at a cost of Rs. 25 only. On receipt of the Bengal Government, Agricultural Department letter Nos. 5381-85, dated the 3rd July, 1919, the district boards of the 24-Parganas and Murshidabad requested the local boards and union committees to induce the villagers to take steps for the eradication of the plants from the waterways within district board areas, but no reports have been received from them regarding the result of their efforts in this direction. The people in the 24-Parganas looked to the district board for allotment of special funds for the purpose, as most of them are not in a position to bear the necessary expenses. The District Engineer, 24-Parganas, issued instructions to his subordinates to remove the plants from roadside drains. It is reported that this was done in certain places, but unless they are removed from private lands and *bils* there can hardly be any permanent improvement. The Jessore district board is collecting information with a view to preparing a comprehensive scheme for the eradication of the plants from the waterways under the control of the district board. The channel from Afra Trimohini down to the Singia railway station within this district is full of water hyacinth. The Eastern Bengal Railway Company is vitally interested in this channel, and the District Magistrate has

asked the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway to take steps for the destruction of the plants from the channel in question.

The district boards of Nadia and Murshidabad are of opinion that no good results can be achieved in the matter unless some sort of legal compulsion is put upon the people. The district boards of Murshidabad and Khulna are considering the desirability of adopting a by-law similar to that framed by the Dacca district board in accordance with the instruction of Government contained in their letter No. 2108 Agriculture, dated the 26th February, 1920. Copies of this Government letter have been forwarded to all the district boards of this division on 2nd March last.

Rajshahi Division. The district board of Rangpur spent Rs. 75 for the removal of water hyacinth in the Gaibandha and Nilphamari subdivisions. Nothing was spent by any other district boards under this head.

The Pabna district board proposed to adopt a by-law similar to the one framed by the Dacca district board for the destruction or removal of water hyacinth.

Dacca Division. The chairman of the Mymensingh district board reports:- "From the part estimates prepared by the District Engineer it was found that the cost of destroying the weeds from *khals* and *bils* in the district would certainly be not less than 1 lakh. It was, therefore, practically impossible for the board either to finance or to carry out a scheme of complete eradication without any legal power and the assistance and co-operation of the zamindars and tenants of the district. Besides, it was thought that partial eradication of the weed in any area would be of no use unless all the neighbouring authorities and the public work in conjunction."

The district board of Faridpur spent about Rs. 4,000 for the purpose of eradicating water hyacinth in the Kumar river from Talma to Fatepur and Bhanga to Balogram, where the traffic was almost stopped in April, 1919. In September and October last, when the price of rice grew abnormally high, the distress in Kotwalipara became keen and the Board advanced Rs. 2,000 to clear water hyacinth in *khals* of Kotwalipara in the shape of relief work.

Except removing the plants growing in some of the important district board *khals* in Bakarganj, no systematic attempt could be made for destroying this pest. The District Engineer of Bakarganj reports that unless the adjoining districts, viz., Dacca, Faridpur, Mymensingh and Khulna, from which the plants are spreading over that district with the tide, join them and work on one plan, it is not possible to destroy it. It is reported that, if necessary, the Bakarganj board shall approach the Divisional Commissioner for holding a conference of all the district boards in the division for the purpose of working out a joint plan on action.

The report of the district board of Dacca is silent on this point."

The following extracts from the reports of the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of municipalities in 1919-20 show the action taken by municipalities:

Burdwan Division. In the Serampore and Rishra-Konnagar municipalities the Ryland channel and municipal tanks were cleared of water hyacinth and notices were issued on private persons to do away with the water hyacinth and complied with. In the Uttarpara, Bandyabati, Bhadreswar and Arambagh municipalities steps were taken to eradicate the water hyacinth and in the Arambagh municipality some private tanks infested with the pest were also cleared. In the Bansberia municipality the water hyacinth, which existed within the municipality, has almost been destroyed and the Commissioners have framed a by-law on the lines of the by-law adopted by the Dacca district board for the eradication of water hyacinth which has been sent up to Government for confirmation. No steps were taken by the Hooghly-Chinsura and the Kotrung municipalities, as no water hyacinth is said to be found in these municipalities.

Since the close of the year the Ghatal municipality in Midnapore has decided to adopt a by-law for the eradication of water hyacinth. No report on the point has so far been received from the other municipalities, whose attention is being drawn to the matter.

Presidency Division.—In the Maniktala municipality eight notices under section 200 of the Bengal Municipal Act were issued, of which six are reported to have been complied with. Steps were taken to eradicate water hyacinth, which appeared in an old tank within the Kushtia municipality. In the other municipalities in the district of Nadia and in the municipality of Jessore no water hyacinth is reported to have been found. In the Kandi municipality no special measures had to be taken, except formal requests and notices on private owners to eradicate the pest which has not yet got a firm hold on the waterways and tanks. No water hyacinth is now noticeable, as, owing to the prolonged drought, the shallow waterways have dried up. In the remaining municipalities no measures were taken to eradicate the pest during the year.

Rajshahi Division. No systematic action was taken by any municipality to eradicate water hyacinth. The Bogra municipality has drawn up a draft by-law on the subject and Rampur Boalia is the only municipality which did something by clearing two ditches. There is no water hyacinth within the municipalities of Jalpaiguri, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Pabna, English-Bazar, Old Malda, Nawabganj, Sirajganj, Darjeeling and Kurseong.

Circulars referred to in reply to unstarred question No. 5 (c).

Nos. 5381-85 Agri., dated Calcutta, the 3rd July, 1919.

From—The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McAlpin, I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department,

To—All Commissioners of Divisions.

I am directed to address you on the subject of eradicating the water hyacinth (*Eichhornia Crassipes*) known also as the "blue devil," *kachuri, tagar*, or *bilati pana*, wherever it is found in the Presidency.

2. The proclivities and dangers of the plant are now well known; that there has been a considerable increase within recent years is a matter of common knowledge.

For some time past, the best methods of checking the spread of the pest have been under the consideration of the Agricultural Department. Apart from the use of its leaves as fodder, though their nutritive value is low, and its more obvious use as fuel, two methods have been found in the extended destruction and utilization by the people of the plant, either dried and rotted for use as a fertilizer, or in the manufacture of ash from a certain type of it for the same purpose or for sale for the extraction of potash. The plant is peculiarly suitable for this purpose, because, although 95 per cent. of it is composed of water, its characteristic constituent is potash. This has been amply confirmed by experiment. When the weed cannot be profitably used, the only suitable method of extermination is by burning every particle of it.

3. Copies of a pamphlet issued by the Government of India, a Press *Communiqué*, dated the 25th June, 1917, a pamphlet prepared by Mr. R. S. Finlow, the Fibre Expert, dated the 9th November, 1917, and of a notice issued recently by the Agricultural Department on the subject of the "water hyacinth" are forwarded for your information and of the District Officers, District Boards and Municipalities in your Division. Your attention is also invited to a Pusa Bulletin No. 71 of 1917 entitled "Water hyacinth: its value as a fertilizer by R. S. Finlow, B.Sc., F.I.C., and K. McLean, B.Sc." From the agricultural point of view, the use of the whole plant as a fertilizer is the most suitable means of the disposal of the weed. Something has already been done on those lines. Demonstrations of its value have been made through the agency of the panchayats in the district of Dacca, and the Director of Agriculture is being requested to make arrangements where practicable, for demonstration in other districts where the water hyacinth is a pest. The commercial value of the ash of a certain type of the weed when properly treated has also been demonstrated by the Agricultural Department. A considerable amount of ash has been made out of the plant, but its commercial use has been restricted by the difficulty of making a proper selection of the weed, of affording proper treatment and of preventing adulteration in addition to the high freight due to the large bulk of the ash which is required for the production of a small amount of potash. The weed can only be used economically, therefore, in the following ways:—

(1) as a fertilizer;
(2) in the form of ash as a fertilizer,
(3) as fodder; and
(4) as fuel.

4. On the other hand, though, according to the latest reports, an increasing quantity of the plant is being used by the people in certain areas as a fertilizer, and, in particular, as fodder for cattle and also as fuel, I am directed to remove any impression there may be that the above measures for the utilization of the weed are likely to result in the complete clearing out of the channels, water-courses and pools in Bengal or in preventing the insidious increase of a pest which it has taxed the energies and resources of other countries to eradicate. The Governor in Council desires to emphasize the fact that the danger from its growth is such that prompt extermination is the first consideration and that the question of its utilization, where

it can be done without fear of the plant being exploited and fostered for commercial gain, must give place to that of its complete extinction. The proper agencies for such extermination are the local bodies, such as District Boards, Local Boards, Union Committees and the Municipalities. His Excellency in Council is accordingly of opinion that, whether or not arrangements can be made to use the plant profitably, it is the duty of these local bodies to eradicate the pest by all means in their power.

I am, therefore, to request you to impress upon the District Boards, Local Boards, Union Committees and Municipalities in your Division, wherever and immediately the pest appears, the necessity of taking prompt and active measures for the complete eradication of the water hyacinth, in particular, from all waterways, the progress made thereon should be reported in their annual reports. I am to add that action is already being taken by the Public Works Department for the extinction of the plant in canals and *khals* maintained by Government or declared under the Canals or Embankment Act.

No. 2107—II Agri., dated Calcutta, the 26th February, 1920.

From—The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McAlpin, I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department,

To—All Commissioners of Divisions.

I am directed to refer to this Department circular Nos. 5381-85, dated the 3rd July, 1919, in which you were requested to impress upon the District Boards, Local Boards, Union Committees and Municipalities in your Division, the necessity of taking prompt and active measures for the eradication of water hyacinth, wherever it appears, and in particular from all waterways in Bengal.

2. I am now to forward, herewith, a copy of a letter No. 16596, dated the 12th December, 1919, from the Agent, Bengal-Nagpur Railway, from which it will be seen that in spite of the efforts made by the Company to eradicate the pest from certain railways lands, the lands have become re-infected on account, it is reported, of the want of co-operation on the part of the Civil authorities. [I am, therefore, to request that you will be so good as to impress upon the local authorities concerned in your Division the need of taking concerted measures in any campaign against the pest.] *For all Commissioners excepting Burdwan.*

[I am, therefore, to request that you will take steps to concert such measures as may be necessary to secure co-operation between the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company and the local authorities in the matter of eradication of the pest. In this connection a copy of my letter No. 2115-Agri., dated the 26th February, 1920, in reply to the Agent, Bengal-Nagpur Railway, is forwarded for your information.] *For Burdwan Commissioner only.*

3. In this connection I am also to invite your attention to the new by-law (copy enclosed) framed by the Dacca District Board for the destruction or removal of water hyacinth from all lands and waterways in their occupation and to suggest that a by-law on similar lines may be adopted elsewhere.

By-law.

Any person having possession of, or control over, any land or water on or in which there exists any water hyacinth shall, if so required by a notice in writing signed by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the District Board, a Local Board or a Union

Committee, or by the District Engineer, destroy or remove such water hyacinth within the period mentioned in such notice Provided that such notices

(*a*) shall be issued simultaneously for the whole of an area to be defined by the District Board, a Local Board or a Union Committee and bounded by rivers or large khals, and

(*b*) shall not be issued oftener than once a year

Technological School in Calcutta.

6. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state when the School of Technology in Calcutta will be ready to begin the practical work of training?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: It is expected that the Calcutta Technical School will be ready to begin work in June, 1922

Primary and Middle English Schools in Manikganj and Tangail.

7. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, for the last ten years, the number of lower primary, upper primary and middle English schools in the Manikganj and Tangail subdivisions?

(*b*) What has been the ratio of increase of the school-going population in the above areas?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): A statement is laid on the table

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 7, showing the number of M. E., U. P. and L. P. Schools and the ratio of increase of the school-going population for the last 10 years, in the Manikganj and Tangail subdivisions.

YEAR.	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS			Ratio of increase of the school-going population.
	M. E.	U. P.	L. P.	
Manikganj.				
1910-11	13	39	137	.....
1911-12	13	37	140	·009
1912-13	15	35	147	·294
1913-14	15	34	179	·234
1914-15	14	35	163	·221

YEAR.	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS.			Ratio of increase of the school-going population.
	M. E.	U. P.	L. P.	
1915-16	14	36	151	·223
1916-17	18	41	160	·007
1917-18	18	37	179	·038
1918-19	21	37	185	·178
1919-20	22	40	207	·182
Tangail.				
1910-11	46	12	306	1·8
1911-12	46	42	312	2·0
1912-13	45	32	351	2·1
1913-14	43	30	337	2·1
1914-15	43	27	363	2·2
1915-16	43	27	415	2·3
1916-17	28	27	363	2·4
1917-18	39	28	459	2·5
1918-19	36	25	477	2·6
1919-20	31	19	483	2·6

Ex-soldiers of the 49th Bengali Regiment.

8. Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA ROY Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state what steps have been taken to provide the ex-soldiers of the 49th Bengali Regiment with suitable posts?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names and appointments of all such ex-soldiers as have been actually provided?

(*c*) If all these men have not been provided, will the Government be pleased to state whether they are considering it advisable to provide them with posts in the police department as assistant sub-inspectors or with higher appointments, in preference to others?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): (*a*) Attention is invited to the Government resolutions No. 2184 P.—D. of the 27th July, 1918, and No. 2706 P.—D.

of the 22nd September, 1919, announcing concessions in the matter of securing civil appointments under Government to those persons who rendered service in connection with the war.

In carrying out the policy announced in these resolutions the Bengal Employment and Labour Board was used as an Employment Bureau for discharged Bengali soldiers, and up to the 31st March, 1920, when the Board was dissolved, employment had been found for 421 discharged Bengali soldiers, of whom 395 obtained appointments in the service of Government. Since then the Political Department has been continuing the work of helping men discharged from military service to secure employment. The claims of candidates with a record of war service are put forward for vacant appointments under Government and also private employers.

(*b*) Details of all names and appointments have not been kept, but from inquiries made up to October last it has been ascertained that 779 appointments have been secured for persons with war service. Separate figures for ex-soldiers of the 49th Bengalis are not available. The figures are not a complete record of employment obtained, as all appointments made are not reported to Government.

(*c*) The policy of preferential treatment for persons who have rendered war service announced in the resolution of the 22nd September, 1919, is still being carried out, and the claims of those applicants qualified to be assistant sub-inspectors of police are brought to notice, but all are not necessarily suitable and it would be impossible to guarantee the employment of all.

Report of the ministerial officers salary committee.

9. Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA ROY Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state when the report of the ministerial officers salary committee is likely to be published and when the Government propose to give effect to their recommendations?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: The Committee have been instructed to submit their report by the 31st March, 1921. Until the report is received it is not possible to state whether it will be published or from what date effect will be given to any measures which may be decided upon in consequence of the recommendations of the Committee. A provision of Rs. 45 lakhs has been proposed in the Budget for the purpose of improving the pay of ministerial and menial establishments during the year 1921-22.

Broad gauge railway line between Ranaghat and Santipur.

10. Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA ROY Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works

be pleased to state whether the construction of the broad gauge railway line between Ranaghat and Santipur has been sanctioned?

(*b*) If so, when is the actual work of construction of the line likely to be taken up?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to open a railway line from Krishnagar to Jelinghee *viâ* Meherpur ?

(*d*) If so, when is the work likely to be taken up?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur) (*a*) and (*b*) The Government of Bengal have no information later than the announcement contained in Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board), notification No. 605 P.—16, dated the 20th August, 1920, which was republished as *Calcutta Gazette* notification No. 6R., dated the 31st August, 1920, to the effect that a further detailed survey for a line of railway on the broad gauge from Churni Bridge on the Lalgola Branch of the Eastern Bengal Railway to Santipur has been sanctioned.

(*c*) and (*d*) The reply is in the negative.

Cost of the Administration of Justice.

11. Colonel A. J. PUGH: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state the approximate annual income of the Bengal Government under the head of Administration of Justice (including Judicial Stamps), and also the approximate annual expenditure under the same heads.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: Statement of receipts and charges of the Civil and Criminal Courts for three years 1917-1919 is laid on the table. The figures for 1920 are not available at present.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 11 of receipts and charges of the Civil and Criminal Courts for the three years 1917-19.

	Civil Courts		Criminal Courts	
	Receipts.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1917 ...	1,47,56,574	61,99,822	17,86,918	25,73,287
1918 ...	1,49,02,371	59,53,495	16,89,642	26,03,022
1919 ...	1,66,81,507	62,78,676	17,64,888	26,50,131

Electoral roll for Europeans.

12. Colonel A. J. PUGH: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department been drawn to

the unsatisfactory manner in which the electoral roll of Europeans entitled to a vote for the Bengal Legislative Council was prepared?

(*b*) Who was the officer responsible for the preparation of a correct roll at the last election?

(*c*) What were the materials from which he prepared that roll?

(*d*) Were any steps taken to check the results, especially by verifying the income-tax returns?

(*e*) If so, what was done? and by whom?

(*f*) What list of income-tax payees was submitted by the Income-tax Department to the registering officer?

(*g*) What is the number of European employees whose income-tax was paid to the Collector of Income-tax by their firms for the year ending March, 1920?

(*h*) Was any separate register kept of such payees?

(*i*) Was such register sent to the registering officer to enable him to include such payees?

(*j*) Were such employees included in the electoral roll?

(*k*) Is the Hon'ble the Member able to give the total number of Europeans in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions who paid—

(*i*) income-tax; and

(*ii*) rates and taxes to the Corporation?

(*l*) If so, will the Government be pleased to give the figures?

(*m*) Are the Government contemplating introducing machinery for carrying out the functions of revising barristers in England, so that a complete and corrected roll may be available at any moment an election becomes necessary?

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): (*a*) There are three European constituencies of the Bengal Legislative Council, viz., the Presidency and Burdwan, the Dacca and Chittagong, and the Rajshahi constituencies. In October of last year the attention of Government was drawn to the unsatisfactory nature of the electoral roll of the first of these constituencies, but no complaints have been received in regard to the rolls of the other two.

(*b*) The registering authority was responsible in each case for the preparation of the roll, the actual work of compilation being done by District Officers and, for Calcutta, by the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation. The registering authorities were the Member of the Board of Revenue, the Commissioner of the Dacca Division, and the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division, respectively.

(*c*), (*d*), (*e*) and (*f*) Under instructions from Government the rolls were prepared in the following manner. A combined list was prepared of Europeans and Anglo-Indians who were qualified as electors under the rules, that is to say, by the occupation of a building, or the payment

of municipal or cantonment taxes or fees, or by the payment of income-tax, or by reason of a military qualification. A separate list was prepared under each head of qualification, and a combined list was made therefrom after eliminating duplicate entries. The Collector of Income-tax compiled a list of income-tax payers in Calcutta, and forwarded it to the office of the Corporation, where it was combined with the municipal list. Similar lists of those resident outside Calcutta, who had paid income-tax in Calcutta, were forwarded to District Officers.

As there is no official record of Europeans, as distinct from Anglo-Indians, a letter was addressed to each person named in the combined list, giving the definitions for the purpose of the franchise, of the terms "European" and "Anglo-Indian," and requesting him to indicate on a postcard enclosed, on which electoral roll he believed himself to be entitled to be entered. From the replies received the European electoral roll was prepared, but as answers were not received from approximately half the persons addressed, there were unavoidably some instances of omission and wrong entry.

The draft rolls so prepared were then published, and 15 days were allowed for the admission of claims and objections. Very little use was made by the public of this opportunity of correcting mistakes and omissions in the rolls. Subsequently, when the attention of Government was drawn to the matter, another period of ten days was allowed, and though this fact was advertised widely through the Chamber of Commerce and otherwise, the response was not very marked.

It will be understood that the official records from which the rolls were compiled were designed and are maintained for purposes other than the preparation of electoral rolls, and that in view of the limited time the only course was to make the best use of the material available.

(*g*) It is impossible to answer this part of the question because Government have no means of knowing who are Europeans as defined in the electoral rules.

(*h*), (*i*) and (*j*) It is understood that firms who pay income-tax on behalf of their employees are required to submit a return showing the names of such employees and the amount of income-tax paid in respect of each.

These returns, it is believed, are generally but not invariably furnished by firms. The names of the employees, so far as they were contained in the returns, were included in the lists furnished by the income-tax authorities, and were inserted in the rolls.

(*k*) and (*l*) Here, again, it is impossible to give the information required for the reason given against (*g*).

(*m*) The electoral rules, as approved by Parliament, prohibit any alteration of an electoral roll so long as it remains in force, which is normally for three years. The question of the preparation and revision of future electoral rolls will receive the consideration of Government in due course.

Pay and prospects of sub-deputy collectors.

13. Maulvi RAFIUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to inform the Council what were the recommendations that were made to the Government of India for the improvement of the pay and prospects of sub-deputy collectors?

(*b*) Have the Government received the final order of the Government of India on their recommendation?

(*c*) If not, when do they expect to receive the final order?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) As the question is still under correspondence with the Government of India the proposals of this Government cannot be laid on the table.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Government have no information as to when final orders may be expected.

Alleged oppression of tenants by zamindars.

14. Maulvi RAFIUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to say what was the revenue of the Government of Bengal in the year 1793 when the Permanent Settlement was granted to the zamindars of Bengal, and what is the revenue at present?

(*b*) What was the amount of rent realised by the zamindars when the Permanent Settlement was granted?

(*c*) What is the amount of rent now realised by the zamindars from the tenants?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of giving permanent right in the lands to the tenants in Bengal?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of putting a stop to the amount of increment in the rents by amending the several sections of the Bengal Tenancy Act?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (LAND REVENUE) (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) The member is referred to page 258 of Harington's "Analysis of Laws and Regulations," Volume II, where it is shown that about the time when the Permanent Settlement was made the revenue of Bengal amounted to 1,90,40,380 *sicca* rupees or 2,03,12,543 Company's rupees. Bengal as it was known at that time does not, however, correspond in area with the presidency as it is constituted at present.

The present revenue demand of this presidency is Rs. 2,76,47,171.

(*b*) The information is not available.

(*c*) Rs. 13,04,29,453.

(*d*) and (*e*) No.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Is it a fact that the figures in the answer are calculated on the amount of cesses which include those on rent-free holdings?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I should like to have fresh notice of this question.

Alleged exclusion of an Anglo-Indian from appointment in the Provincial Executive Service.

15. Mr. H. BARTON: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state what action, if any, is being taken on the representation by the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association (Bengal), Ltd., regarding the exclusion from amongst those gentlemen appointed to be deputy magistrates and deputy collectors on probation, of an Anglo-Indian lad, although nominated by the Commissioner and Collector of the Dacca Division, and in spite of the further fact that his educational qualifications are of a higher standard than the educational qualifications of those who were given promotion?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: The application of the gentleman in question and the subsequent representation of the Association were considered in connection with the selections ultimately made, but it was held that others had better claims. It is understood that his application for the Educational Department will be dealt with in due course by the selection committee.

Preventive Officers of the Customs Preventive Service.

16. Mr. H. BARTON: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to say whether it is a fact that in certain cases senior Preventive Officers of the Customs Preventive Service, Calcutta, though admittedly capable and although they had filled certain higher appointments satisfactorily in an officiating capacity, have been superseded for permanent promotion to the same appointments?

(*b*) Was this order of supersession passed on the ground that it was considered that their appearance was against them?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of calling for the papers bearing on all cases of supersession with a view to protecting senior Preventive Officers against such hardships?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the supplementary recommendations by the Collector of Customs, as affecting the recent revision of pay of the Customs Preventive Service, have been accepted by the Government of India and how soon a notification might be expected?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: (*a*) and (*b*) The Collector of Customs reports that no such cases have occurred

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The matter is under the consideration of the Government of India and it is not possible to say when orders will be received

Rules under section 35 of Bengal Act VI of 1920.

17. Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether any rules have been framed under section 35 of Bengal Act VI of 1920?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table the rules framed or draft thereof, if any?

(*c*) If no rules have been framed, when are such rules likely to be framed?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) Draft rules have been framed and published for criticism

(*b*) and (*c*) The member is referred to the draft rules published on pages 322-332 of the Supplement to the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 9th February, 1921.

Agricultural and dairy farms.

18. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state the number of district agricultural farms that are being maintained at Government expense?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement in tabular form showing the expenses incurred on account of each of these farms and the income derived from the sale of their produce during the last calendar year?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether all district agricultural farms are conducted mainly for experimental purposes?

(*d*) Is there any Government agricultural farm managed with a view to show what profit can be earned by improved methods of agriculture?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are proposing to start such farms?

(*f*) Are there any dairy farms attached to the district agricultural farms?

(*g*) If the answer to (*f*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether Government are considering the desirability of starting such dairy farms in the immediate future?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Seven.

(*b*) A statement supplying the information is laid on the table.

(*c*) No. For the present, experiment in the true sense of the word i confined as far as possible to the central farms at Dacca and Chinsura.

(*d*) It is one of the objects of the district agricultural farms to sho that increased profits can be earned by improved methods of agriculture but no farm is managed with a view to showing a profit on its working

(*e*) The scheme in regard to the future development of farms pr vides for a demonstration and seed farm in each district. In the latt the results of experiments which have been successfully carried out a the central experimental stations will be tested under the varying co ditions of each particular district. These farms will also constitute th centre for all agricultural activity in the district. In some district subsidiary privately owned seed farms are already springing up, whic depend on the district farm for seed and advice and for the training c their farm hands

(*f*) No.

(*g*) No.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 18 (b), show ing the receipts and expenditure of the farms under the Departmen for the year ending the 31st December, 1920.

Serial No	Name of Farm	Total expenditure.			Total receipts		
		Rs	A	P	Rs	A.	P
1	Dacca Experimental Farm .	61,668	0	11 (*a*)	4,196	11	6 (*b*)
2	Chinsurah Experimental Farm ...	28,127	7	11 (*a*)	12,661	6	0
3	Rajshahi Farm	10,851	3	1 (*a*)	2,719	3	6
4	Rangpur Demonstration Farm ...	14,912	15	3 (*a*)	2,388	15	6
5	Bogra Farm	3,821	1	6 (*c*)	Nil		
6	Mymensingh Farm	3,935	4	7 (*c*)	223	0	3
7	Comilla Farm	2,667	6	0 (*c*)	Nil		

(*a*) Includes experimental and capital charges, repairs to buildings and quarters, laying out an reclamation

(*b*) Excludes the value of Kataktara and Indrasail paddy seeds amounting to Rs 4,156-5- made over to the Seed Store

(*c*) Newly started farms

Platform to the Azimaganj city railway station.

19. Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Hon'ble th Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased t

state what order, if any, has been passed on the representation made some time ago to Government by the local public praying for the provision of a platform to the Azimganj city railway station (Nalhati Branch, East Indian Railway)?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The member is referred to the answer given to unstarred question No. 34 by the Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 1st July, 1920.

Railway line from Sainthia through Kandi subdivision.

20. Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state the reasons which have delayed the taking up of the construction of the proposed railway line from Sainthia, East Indian Railway, which will run through the subdivision of Kandi in the Murshidabad district?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: Construction cannot be started until the Railway Board have come to a final decision in regard to the alignment and until that alignment has been surveyed in detail and a project sanctioned.

The Government of Bengal have expressed preference for the northern-most of two alignments between Berhampore and Bhairamara, which were suggested as alternatives, as a result of a reconnaissance survey of the locality.

The Government of Bengal understand that the detailed survey required to complete the project has been deferred owing to want of funds during the financial year 1921-22

Receipts of railway fares on the Eastern Bengal Railway system.

21. Maulvi ABDUL KARIM: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the actual railway receipts in fares received during the last three years separately from 1st, 2nd, intermediate and 3rd class passengers, respectively, in the Eastern Bengal Railway system?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The member is referred to pages 34 and 38 of Appendix 6, Volume II, of the Administration Report for the year 1919-20 on Railways in India, published by the Government Central Press, Simla.

Ad-interim allowances to ministerial officers of the Settlement Department and inclusion of that Department into the scope of salary revision committee.

22. Maulvi RAFIUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether the clerks in the Settlement Department have got any share in the grant of rupees fifteen lakhs sanctioned as temporary allowance to ministerial officers in Government Resolution No. 13631 F., dated the 1st September, 1920? If not, why not?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the present Salaries Committee will also inquire and report about the pay and prospects of the ministerial officers of the Settlement Department? If not, why not?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) No. The clerks of the Settlement Department belong to temporary establishments whose pay is fixed from time to time by the Settlement Officers and the Director of Land Records in accordance with the qualifications of each clerk and the nature of work performed by them.

(*b*) No. Under the terms of reference the Salaries Committee are to inquire into the pay of the permanent ministerial and menial establishments only.

Draft order apportioning cost of settlement operations in the Nadia district.

23. Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA ROY Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether it is intended to publish a draft order of apportionment of cost to be recovered from landlords and tenants in connection with the Survey and Settlement operations in the Nadia district, before the final orders are passed?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that such a draft order would give the landlords and tenants an opportunity of discussing or objecting to any proposals before the passing of final orders?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) There is no provision in the law for the publication of draft orders of apportionment of costs under section 114 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, and there would be practical difficulties in the way of publishing such orders. In accordance with the present practice, orders of apportionment will be published in the Gazette for general information.

(*b*) The Settlement Department recognise that there are abnormal conditions in Nadia district, and therefore propose to publish apportionment orders for only three thanas in which these conditions prevail

to a minor extent instead of publishing them for the whole of Block A. The orders will be circulated among the public and will enable the result of the assessment to be considered before orders are issued for the rest of the district.

Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA ROY Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge please name the three thanas in regard to which the apportionment will be made?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I am afraid that I have not got the names of the thanas with me I shall, however, get them hereafter.

Silting up of the Dhaleswari river and the insanitary condition of the Munshiganj subdivision.

24. Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation been drawn to the silting up of the river Dhaleswari and its outlets?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the result has been that navigation even by country boats has become inconvenient during the greater portion of the year and that the Munshiganj subdivision of the Dacca district is converted into a malarious tract for want of pure drinking water?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what steps are being taken to restore means of communication and to free the said tract from malaria and other epidemics?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) Yes, but there has not been any serious silting of late.

(*b*) Navigation is restricted during certain seasons of the year, the Munshiganj subdivision is not, however, reported to be malarious.

(*c*) To restore and keep up navigation, bandalling work to train the entrance is taken up annually, and some dredging has also been done when dredgers were available for this purpose; so far as the reference to malaria is concerned, the question does not arise.

Blockade in the Kalukhali sluice-gate in Murshidabad.

25. Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation aware to what a great extent the blockade in the sluice-gate at Kalukhali, in the district of Murshidabad, has rendered the jheel water insanitary and has affected and impaired the productivity and fertility of the large tract of outlying arable lands?

(*b*) If so, what steps, if any, have been taken or when are they proposed to be taken, to improve the existing condition of things?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) The abandonment of the Kalukhali sluice has not had the effects indicated in the question.

(*b*) Drainage cuts to connect low areas and to drain them back to the river were made, but it has been ascertained that these channels are closed by villagers at times to suit conditions for growing *aus* crop. The question as to whether this practice should be put a stop to, will be investigated.

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that Dr Bentley recommended the opening of the sluice-gates?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: We have got no information about that

Paddy in the Sadar and Vishnupur subdivisions.

26. Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state what quantity of paddy was grown in the Sadar and Vishnupur subdivisions of the Bankura district in the years 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919 and 1920, and the amounts that were exported out of the said district during the abovementioned years?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what amount of paddy was imported into the district of Bankura during the years 1916 to 1920?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what amount of paddy is required for local consumption every year in the Bankura district?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) (*b*) and (*c*) A statement showing the estimated outturn of paddy in the Sadar and Vishnupur subdivisions of the district of Bankura in the years 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919 and 1920 is laid on the table. The information asked for in the rest of the question is not available.

Statement referred to in reply to unstarred question No. 26, showing the quantity of paddy grown in the Sadar and Vishnupur subdivisions of the Bankura district for the years 1916 to 1920.

Years	Outturn (Sadar subdivision)	Outturn (Vishnupur subdivision)
	Maunds.	Maunds.
1916	5,818,800	2,660,000
1917	5,118,700	2,340,000
1918	2,734,400	1,250,000
1919	5,468,800	2,500,000
1920	3,631,300	1,660,000

Discussion of the Budget.

The PRESIDENT: I would remind the members of the Council that the discussion of the Budget must be finished on the 3rd March, that is the time allotted by His Excellency the Governor. Also that there is a time-limit of 15 minutes for speakers other than the Members of Government and Ministers explaining heads of the Budget. I would also draw the attention of the members to the provision of section 89 (*1*) of our rules, which runs as follows:—

On a day to be appointed by the Governor, subsequent to the day on which the Budget is presented and for such time as the Governor may allot for this purpose, the Council shall be at liberty to discuss the Budget as a whole or any question of principle involved therein, but no motion shall be moved at this stage, nor shall the Budget be submitted to the vote of the Council.

Sir ASHUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I am sorry that I cannot congratulate the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr for the Budget which has been placed before us for consideration and discussion. I find great difficulty in understanding the Budget as it stands. I shall very shortly point out a few heads with regard to which I complain. We have to face a deficit. It is abundantly clear that our revenues do not come up to our expenditure this year. It is also an admitted fact that our revenues are not elastic; but apparently the expenditure has gone up this year by over 2 crores of rupees; and we have to fall back upon our balances, and it is said that we must draw upon our balances and appropriate a very large portion of them for meeting the deficit. It is admitted that a large proportion of this sum could have been utilised in one way or another; and yet Rs. 2,08,31,000 has got to be drawn from this balance which is admittedly bad finance; the Hon'ble the Finance Member himself has said that it is bad finance. I would call your attention to the two matters in this connection. The balance which we are going to use this year is the balance which has been described as an "unduly swollen" balance, and which really means that money, which was available to us in former years, was not spent by us, and therefore it

will be necessary to inquire how we are claiming to apply this balance to meet our deficit. Sir, in this connection I should like to call the attention of this House to the amount of the balances as I find it stated in the Budget of 1920, page 311. The closing balance was placed at Rs. 3,43,42,000. Of this, Rs. 20,00,000 represented the prescribed minimum closing balance of the province, which must be kept in tact, while Rs. 1,69,32,000 represented the unspent balances of Imperial recurring and non-recurring grants or sums which were earmarked for specific purposes, as detailed below. The free provincial balance, therefore, amounted to Rs. 1,54,10,000. Now, they were earmarked in this way:—

	Rs.
Balance of Imperial grants for Education	98,33,000
Balance of Imperial grants for Agricultural Education ...	69,000
Balance of Imperial grants for Sanitation	60,51,000
Ranchi Lunatic Asylum	9,79,000

giving us Rs. 1,69,32,000. The minimum closing balance was Rs. 20,00,000 and the available free balance was Rs. 1,54,10,000. Therefore, we find that the closing balance was earmarked to the extent of Rs. 1,69,00,000. Now, what it is proposed to do with this balance is that the earmarked is to go; that is to say, we want this money for purposes other than those for which they were earmarked. I should like the House to consider how far that could be justified and I should like to call the attention of the Ministers, who are principally concerned with this matter, as to how they have allowed this money to be dealt with without asking that it should be applied for the purposes for which they were earmarked. Now, Sir, in this connection, I find that my friend, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, raised this question last year and he said that, when we had this balance, he failed to understand why this heavy sum should still be allowed to remain idle. I am not referring to what happened previously, because I find that at one time Sir William Duke said that schemes were not ready and, until the schemes were matured, they would not be able to use the money. Of course, the maturity of schemes may cover a long period. I should like to know what is said with regard to this; I imagine that a considerable proportion of the schemes has matured, and, if inquiries be made, it will be found that the schemes which were under consideration in 1913, at least a great many of them, have now matured. Now that they have matured, these grants, which should be applied for particular purposes, are no longer available for those purposes, but they are going to be utilised to meet the general expenditure, and therefore I submit that it would be wrong to use them in this way. I also shall call to your recollection Sir Henry Wheeler's reply to Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri; he thought "no doubt that it was the duty of the Government to advance the millenium, but that they could not do it at the time." The question of the millenium must now depart and it is now a

question merely of meeting our needs or starving the province. This is what he said:—

Another general issue was raised by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, who seemed to advise us to signalise the last year of the old official Government by spending in one grand blaze every penny of which we are possessed. As I understand him, he would like to see the whole of the three or four crores of our balances cast into the Budget in the form of grandiose schemes of expenditure. The suggestion has something to recommend it, and possibly, we officials would rather like to have gone out introducing, or at any rate, accelerating to the best of our power, the millennium.

Of course, that hope must vanish now, but I doubt if the suggestion would commend itself to the Ministers and I would like to hear what the Ministers have got to say. There are also practical difficulties. In the first place, there is a point, beyond which we cannot conveniently draw on our balances. We could not do that last year, but I find it can be conveniently disposed of this year in one grand blaze. And Sir Henry Wheeler further said:—

We have reason to believe that we and other provinces have already drawn on them to the utmost extent which would be welcomed by the Government of India, which is this matter after all stands in a position of our banker, and secondly, there is a practical point, beyond which we cannot spend money during the year, even if we go through the formality of putting it in the Budget.

Sir, that was the answer given by the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler. Leaving aside the hidden sarcasm in that speech, dealing with Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri's observations, what the Finance Member now proposes is to spend this amount in one grand blaze, and he has to apply the whole of this for general purposes; and the millennium which Sir Henry Wheeler was not able to anticipate at that time and which he was perfectly ready to help forward has now gone, because the revenue that we are going to get is not elastic, it cannot be increased by leaps and bounds. The deficit has got to be met. But it cannot be met except by applying these balances; and, therefore, although we are living in the expectation of something cropping up, now, what we are doing is that we are going to dispose of the earmarked balance for other purposes, and I do not think that it is right to call upon the House to do so. I am not forgetting, in dealing with this matter, the Devolution Rules; and I should like to call attention to the rules which deal with this question of utilising this earmarked balance in this way. It may be said that rule 14 (*1*) of the Devolution Rules empowers the Government to do this. The rule runs as follows:—

The following sources of revenue shall, in the case of Governors' provinces and in the province of Burma, be allocated to the local Government as sources of Provincial revenue, namely:—(a) balances standing at the credit of the province at the time when the Act comes into force.

Therefore, by that clause, it becomes part of our Provincial revenue and, therefore, being part of the Provincial revenue, it may be said, that it may be disposed of in this manner; that is to say, it loses its earmark,

and that is the intrepretation which has been put upon it, which, I do not think, is accepted by a large number of the members of this House. It is a question which has always to be borne in mind—although it may be possible under the law and the Devolution Rules to utilise our balances for purposes other than those for which they were earmarked. The question is whether it is right to do so, may it not do great harm? So far as the sources of revenue are concerned, I do not want to detain the House by suggesting various means by which some money may be raised; but there is one point, which I would like the Finance Member to note, that is "Fisheries." I find that, so far as "Fisheries" are concerned, they yield us a very small revenue. It has been held by the High Court, and even by the Privy Council, that so far as the tidal and navigable rivers are concerned fisheries may be let out by the Government, and what I would suggest that the Government may consider how far it is practicable to do so; we have got large navigable and tidal rivers, and we have got a vast sea-littoral. It should be considered whether it is possible to utilise this source for purposes of revenue. I would further suggest, with regard to this matter, whether it is not possible, having regard to our taxation rules, to raise some money from stamps. We have got some power to deal with stamps. I would venture to suggest for consideration, whether or not it is possible for us to raise the stamp duty on petitions from 8 annas to Re 1. The standard has not been raised for a great number of years, and I believe that from 1865 there has been no increase; there is another class of petitions for which a one-anna stamp is levied, and that class may be raised to 4 annas. This would undoubtedly increase our revenue to a very large extent.

Then, there is the terminal tax, which we are able to impose; and I would call attention to the jute coming into Calcutta. No doubt, the Calcutta Improvement Trust is taking something from jute: but, so far as we are concerned, we might be able to introduce something in respect of the jute coming into Calcutta or into Chittagong; that is to say, to levy a terminal tax on jute, which it would be competent for the Bengal Legislature to impose. Beyond these suggestions, I have nothing more now to say with regard to the means for raising our revenue.

In the Budget the expenditure has been allocated in this way:—65 per cent. of the expenditure has been reserved for reserved subjects and 35 per cent for transferred subjects, which, I am told, is much the same, as has been allocated in previous years. The increase amounts to Rs 2,65,00,000. Now, with regard to this what has baffled me completely in regard to the Budget as presented is that it is divided into "Voted" and "Non-voted" I find no indication at all as to how these amounts have been calculated. I have noted the rule in the Devolution Rules which relates to this matter, but before I deal with "Non-voted" items, I should like to call attention to three matters

which I find on page 2 of the Budget. There we have three expenditure items:—

Outlay on waterways not charged to revenue.

Loans and advances by the Bengal Government

Loans between the Central Government and the Government of Bengal.

The PRESIDENT: You have exceeded your time-limit.

Mr. W. R. RAE: It is for your consideration whether Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri should not be allowed to go on. We should like him to go on.

Sir ASHUTOSH CHAUDHURI: If you will permit me I will offer only a few more remarks. I am not in the habit of taking up time at any length

The PRESIDENT nodded acquiescence.

Sir ASHUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I refer to these particular instances, because I think that this is a matter which requires careful consideration by the House I mean the loan between the Central Government and the Government of Bengal, which is Rs. 86,58,000. That loan we are going to repay. With regard to that you will find a reference on page 27 of the Budget. This sum it will be remembered carries a low rate of interest The Budget says, "As it has been decided to repay in full to the Government of India, from the accumulated Provincial balances, on the 1st of April, 1921, all sums advanced by them to the local Government up to the end of this year, no interest will be payable to the central Government in 1921-22. Now who has decided that? 'As it has been decided to repay in full" my question is—who has decided it? Now on page 2 you will find that it does not come under the head "Non-voted" It does not come under the head "Demand for grants" It is under neither of these two heads. Who has decided it then? If this money has to be paid, I think we ought to have a voice in its disposal. But it has been taken for granted that the Government, rather the Finance Member, can immediately pay it back Then we find the next item is an outlay of Rs 70,00,000; this is going to be borrowed by the Government. We know that loans of this kind cannot be raised now except at a very high rate of interest. We are going to borrow Rs. 70 lakhs—Rs. 50 lakhs from the Government of India and Rs. 20 lakhs from the public at a high rate of interest. Is that sound finance? and what is the sanction? With regard to this may I call your attention to rule 23 of the Devolution Rules, which provides:—

Any moneys which, on the 1st day of April, 1921, are owed to the Governor-General in Council on account of advances made from the provincial loan account of any province, shall be treated as an advance to the local Government from the revenues of India, and shall carry interest at a rate calculated on the average rate carried by the total amount owed to the Governor-General in Council on this account on the 31st March, 1921. The interest shall be payable upon such dates as the Governor-General

in Council may fix. In addition, the local Government shall pay to the Governor-General in Council in each year an instalment in repayment of the principal amount of the advance, and this instalment shall be so fixed that the total advance shall except where for special reasons the Governor-General in Council may otherwise direct, be repaid before the expiry of 12 years. It shall be open to any local Government to repay in any year any amount in excess of the fixed instalment.

Therefore, when the Budget says that it has been decided to apply this money, I want to ask, who has decided it, how it has been decided without waiting for the sanction of this House? That is a question on which I want to have more light thrown.

There is another matter and it is about the "Voted" and "Non-voted" items. I would ask you to look at the Budget to say if you are able to discover on what principle the "Voted" and "Non-voted" grants have been allocated. There is one rule which deals with this matter, and that is rule 72 D (3), which says:—

Nothing in the foregoing sub-section shall require proposals to be submitted to the Council relating to the following heads of expenditure —

(i) contributions payable by the local Government to the Governor-General in Council;

(ii) interest and sinking fund charges on loans;

(iii) expenditure of which the amount is prescribed by or under any law,

(iv) salaries and pensions of persons appointed by or with the approval of His Majesty or by the Secretary of State in Council, and

(v) salaries of Judges of the High Court of the province and of the Advocate General.

Under what head do several of the "Non-voted" items come? If they come under any head, they come under sub-clause (iii) of rule 72D. If this is so, I should like to know the references to the laws which have prescribed this expenditure. Certain amounts have merely been mentioned as "Non-voted." Take any item, say "Forests." You will find a large amount put down as "Non-voted." Why "Non-voted"? On what principle does one amount become "Non-voted" and another amount "Voted." I want particulars.

There is another complaint. I would ask the House to look at page 132 of the Budget. If a Budget of this kind was placed before any Joint Stock Board I do not know what would happen. We are supposed to have detailed accounts on this page; and what are the detailed accounts? In six lines you have got detailed accounts of Rs. 1,48,00,000. What are the details? How are they to be voted for? What information have we about the matter? Is it expected that members of the House should go to the departments for the details, and then discuss the matter here? That is my complaint. There are heads which have not been explained, and the principles upon which divisions have been made have not been enunciated. My submission is, that time ought to be allowed and explanations given, before the Budget resolutions are brought forward.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I do not envy the position of my friend the Hon'ble the Finance Member, He is not responsible for

he allocation of revenues under the Reform Scheme, which, by a pro-ess of manipulation, which need not be repeated here, has hit Bengal ard. That does not, however, absolve him from the responsibility of the Budget for the year 1921-22, and any blame due should rightly e borne by him. The actual revenue collection for the year is estima-ed at Rs. 9 crores and 71 lakhs and the expenditure at Rs 11 crores nd 80 lakhs. Besides this amount, provision has been made to pay he Government of India the sum of about Rs. 86 lakhs, the amount ent by the Government of India to municipalities, district boards, agri-ulturists and others in Bengal, these being henceforth debtors to the overnment of Bengal and no longer to the Government of India, and f advances to be made by the Government of Bengal of the sum of Rs 14½ lakhs. The net result is that the Government incurs an expen-iture of Rs. 3 crores and 7 lakhs from the unspent balances which ave accumulated for years. Expenditure over income is always ad finance, and it is certainly not justified by saying that this year he excess has been met by drawing upon the unspent balances. The udget has been so framed that by incurring new expenditure this year e are committed to an increasingly larger expenditure in years to ollow, while concealing from our view the projects we are committed to take the case of the Public Works Department Budget 41B. The xpenditure in original Civil Buildings is shown simply as Rs 74,68,000, ithout showing the details. Now, on inquiry from the Finance Mem-er, I learnt that out of this sum it is expected that about Rs 7 lakhs ill be spent on works in connection with the partition of Mymen-ngh, but, by spending this Rs 7 lakhs, we are committed to the otal expenditure, which I am certain you will be surprised to hear mounts to Rs. 75 lakhs. This relates to one district only. There s also the expenditure in connection with the partition of Midna-ore, the total expenditure for which amount to about Rs 20 lakhs ommon sense tells us that, when you cannot meet your expenses from our income, the policy is to retrench the expenditure or to try to increase our income. You cannot shut your eyes to facts, and the Government f Bengal cannot say that they were not cognisant of facts. They should ave tried to follow a clear cut policy since the beginning of 1918 at east since July 1918—when the Report on Indian Constitutional Reforms as published, and taken the public into their confidence The public are ntitled to know what the Government have been doing since that time, ut I am afraid they have not been able to shake off their old habits and ays of thinking even now The Finance Member explains the deficit nostly on two grounds,—(*i*) that we have to make a contribution to the overnment of India of Rs. 63 lakhs, and (*ii*) that the provision of Rs. 46 lakhs had to be made for the revision of the ministerial and menial stablishments. It will be, however, seen that the total expenditure of he Government of Bengal, if taken on the present basis during 1918, as Rs. 8,50,28,000, and in 1920 Rs. 8,10,00,000, while the present

income is estimated to amount to Rs. 9,71,82,000. The deficit is therefore not due mainly to the two causes mentioned by the Hon'ble Finance Member, but to the fact that the Government of Bengal, knowing full well the situation to which they were drifting, have entered into other commitments, which have exhausted any possible increased incomes. In this connection, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Member to give separate figures of the total increased cost owing to the revision of the pay of the Imperial and Provincial Services separately. The injustice and unfairness of the arrangement proposed by the Financial Member will be apparent, however, from the fact which I state below Ever since 1912, the Government of India have been giving annually large special grants—both recurring and non-recurring—for the improvement of education and sanitation of this Presidency. When complaints were made in this Council in 1913 that Government were not spending the money specially granted by the Government of India for sanitary purposes, the then Finance Member, Sir William Duke, replied that the question with Government for years past had been not a question of funds but of getting properly prepared and matured schemes on which to charge these funds When, however, all these schemes were prepared, war had broken out, and the Government did not spend these sums; the result was that at the end of the official year 1919-20 there had accumulated with the Government of Bengal a sum of Rs. 1 crore and 23 lakhs earmarked for certain specified educational purposes, for which it had been allotted by the Government of India, and Rs. 63 lakhs for sanitation. During the year 1920-21, the Government of India made a grant of a further Rs. 17 lakhs for educational and sanitary purposes I could not get from the Hon'ble the Finance Member the exact sum that would remain unspent on the 31st March, 1921, but I think it would be something like Rs. 2½ crores. All this money has been granted by the Government of India for certain specific educational and sanitary purposes, and the Government of Bengal had been all along enjoined, and they have themselves publicly declared, that the amount could not be spent for any other purpose. Now, as soon as the control of the Government of India over the Budget has passed away, and we have what we call provincial autonomy, all promises are swept away and the Government blandly proposes to divert the whole amount to general purposes. I should like to know, and the public would like to know, whether this has been done with the consent of the Ministers After all, whatever we may say, there are moral obligations and public faith even in administrative matters, and whatever you may say about technical or legal rights, this money cannot be diverted to other purposes.

The fact stands that the Reforms have not brought in that era of educational and sanitary progress which many of us hoped to see. On the other hand we find that the money, which had accumulated under these heads, is being misappropriated for other purposes. Then I find that

besides the scheme for the supply of pure water to the riparian municipalities, which amounts to about Rs. 40 lakhs, there are matured schemes for the supply of water and for drainage in mufassal municipalities to the extent of about Rs. 65 lakhs, many of which have received the administrative approval of Government. If the Minister in charge of the Public Health Department does not keep any account of them, I can let him know the facts and where to get them.

The following are some of the projects administratively approved:—

				Rs
(1) Serampore Water Supply Extension		...	...	1,00,286
(2) Comilla Water Supply	...	...	...	3,65,000
(3) Patuakhali Water Supply	...	...	...	27,500
(4) Basirhat Water Supply	...	...	...	9,930

We have got matured schemes costing about Rs. 65 lakhs.

We are told that, under the power vested under rule 32 of the Devolution Rules, His Excellency the Governor has allotted 65 per cent. of the revenues for the administration of the reserved and 35 per cent. for that of the transferred subjects, and I have tried to find out from the detailed figures if the orders had been loyally carried out.

The opening balance is estimated at Rs. 3 crores and 44 lakhs. Deducting from this the sum of Rs. 1 crore and 1 lakh to be invested on loans there remains about Rs. 2 crores and 43 lakhs, and, of this amount, if we exclude Rs. 20 lakhs, which is to be treated as a permanent opening balance, the whole amount remaining should properly belong to the heads under Education and Sanitation, but the entire amount has been treated as part of the general revenues. As regards expenditure, excluding Public Works Department and the contribution to the Government of India, we find that the Budget estimate amounts to Rs. 2,66,62,000 under "Transferred heads" and Rs. 6,95,27,000 under "Reserved heads." From the "Transferred heads" are to be excluded certain items and they should have been shown separately. I now give my reasons for excluding the Public Works Department. The expenditure incurred by the Public Works Department for new work has hitherto generally been credited to that head of expenditure for which the work was being constructed. In any case, that should be the proper procedure. Police buildings should go under Police and Court buildings under Law and Justice, just as University buildings should go under Educational and Hospitals under Medical. That is common sense. From the figures of certain major works, the original estimates for which exceed Rs. 1 lakh, it appears that in the coming year it is proposed to spend Rs. 28 lakhs in buildings for reserved subjects against Rs. 10 lakhs for transferred subjects. If the correct figures were available for all items it would not be difficult to show that the main expenditure of the Public Works Department is for the reserved departments, and we, therefore,

need not go far to seek the reason by which during the present year it was found necessary to transfer to the Public Works head allotments from other heads for new works and works in progress (*vide* page 7 of the Budget). The reason is to so manipulate the figures that it would seem that huge expenditure was being incurred for the administration of transferred subjects, while really it was not so. The days of such jugglery with figures, I thought, were past, and both the Budget and the Civil estimates are silent as to the projects for which the Council will be asked to give the Executive a blank cheque to the amount of Rs. 1 crore and 50 lakhs. I hope the Finance Member will see that both the Budget and the Civil estimates give the detailed schemes. In this connection I must tell him that the form in which the Civil Budget estimates for 1921-22 has been prepared is not only not satisfactory, but it rather confuses one. All along the Civil estimates contained the detailed figures which enabled any one to go into and check any item he thought doubtful. I refer my friend to the head "General Administration—Civil Secretary." He will find that it is specifically stated that there is one Under-Secretary in the Political Department drawing Rs. 12,000. In the estimates for 1921-22, it is simply shown as "Under-Secretary—Rs. 45,000." Now this cannot be correct. The word used is singular and can refer to one person only, but his pay certainly cannot be Rs. 45,000. I tried to find out the pay of the officer who looms so prominently in the Presidency, the Director of Information. This could not be found. I wanted to find out from the estimates the total expenditure on the Intelligence Branch of the new Police—the Branch which worked the Defence of India Act and about which no one in Bengal need to be told anything. I find from the Civil List there is one Deputy Inspector-General of Police in charge, but I could not get the other gentleman anywhere—either in the Civil List or in the Civil estimates. They have been so cleverly concealed. So I had recourse to my friend, the Finance Member, and I got the figures only this morning. I hope the form of the Civil estimates will be altered so as to make those informations available. Here, I may mention, that in the year 1913-14, the year before the war broke out, the Budget estimate on Police amounted to Rs. 95,82,000 and that on Education to Rs. 1,34,88,000. The actual expenditure in 1919-20 was Rs. 1,43,95,000 and Rs. 98,23,000, the Budget estimates for the year 1920-21 were Rs. 1,50,32,000 and Rs. 1,21,42,000, and the revised estimates Rs. 1,63,25,000 and Rs. 1,07,85,000, respectively. The figures proposed for the coming year, Rs. 1,90,85,000 and Rs. 1,26,07,000, respectively, are still more illuminating. They require no comments, and no wonder that discontent is rampant in the land. What propaganda work can the Director of Information do to counteract the evil effects of such crushing facts? It had been my lot to harp year after year upon the inefficiency of the present Education Department of the Government of Bengal compared with that of the Police. I find the Reforms have made the situation

worse. This will be made more clear from the fact that while provision has been made for Rs. 1 lakh only for primary education in the mufassal for 42 millions of Indians under the new Primary Education Act, which is a transferred subject, large grants have been proposed to be made for European and Anglo-Indian education, as this is under a Member of the Executive Council who is not responsible to the Legislature.

It would not be out of place here to mention that I wanted information from the Director of Public Instruction as to how the amount Rs. 1 lakh allotted for primary education last year has been spent, and, on my reminding him on Friday last, I was told that the Secretary to the Education Department has told him that they would be given after the Minister in charge of Education had seen them. The fact, however, stands that the information has not been supplied to me as yet, although the Finance Member promised that all such information should be supplied freely. Here I must plead the cause of the teachers in Government schools, for whom, I see, that a provision of Rs. 3½ lakhs has only been made. I am told that the total number of men in the Subordinate Educational Service would be something like 2,000 and it does not appear that much improvement will be effected by a provision of Rs. 3½ lakhs.

We have grave doubts as to whether there is any necessity for a grant of Rs. 1,30,000 for preparation of paper work in the High Court or for any extra grant to the High Court.

The present Budget deals with the highest amount of expenditure, and it cannot be hoped that in the near future Government will be able to spend a larger amount from income, even if the export duty on jute is granted to us. The prospect of the extension of education and improvement of sanitation and development of industries do not seem bright to me under the new regime. We have heard times without number that the Ministers have been placed in charge of "nation-building" departments. My countrymen will now be able to know how this will be achieved.

The PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that we have only four days for the discussion of the Budget. At the rate of 15 minutes for every speaker, we can only have 16 speeches at each sitting, and the result would be that in four days we can only have 64 speeches. I hope, therefore, that the members will try not to exceed the time-limit.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: The Hon'ble Mr. Kerr is entitled to the fullest sympathy of this Council in the difficult task with which he finds himself confronted at the very commencement of his tenure of office as Finance Member of Bengal. It is most unfortunate that the first Budget which he has to present to this Council should announce a deficit of more than Rs. 2 crores. The Hon'ble Member, however, is optimistic about the future, and I am sure all of us in this Council share the hope he

has expressed that before the time comes for dealing with another Budget our position, so far as our annual receipts are concerned, will have materially improved. Sir, I quite realise the exceptional circumstances under which the present Budget had to be prepared. The Devolution Rules containing the final list of Provincial subjects and lists of Reserved and Transferred subjects and also rules regarding allocation of revenue and other financial arrangements were published as late as 16th December, 1920. The present Government of Bengal was constituted on the 3rd January last, and the Budget had to be presented to the Council within six weeks of the formation of Government. I can well appreciate, therefore, the difficulties under which the Budget had to be framed.

Now, coming to an examination of the Budget itself, I find that a remarkable feature of it is that a very large amount, a little over Rs. 2 crores, come under the category of Non-voted, or, in other words, which is not to be voted upon by the Council. The Government of India Act, 1919, no doubt provides that certain proposals of expenditure are not to be submitted to the Council for its vote. A bare narration of the heads of expenditure which are excluded from our vote will at once convince everybody that the principle underlying this provision is perfectly sound. These are the heads of expenditure:—

(1) Contributions payable by the local Government to the Governor-General in Council;

(2) interest and sinking fund charges on loans;

(3) expenditure of which the amount is prescribed by or under any law;

(4) salaries and pensions of persons appointed by, or with the approval of, His Majesty or by the Secretary of State in Council;

(5) salaries of Judges of the High Court of the province and of the Advocate-General.

Now these exceptions, which correspond to the Consolidated Fund charge in England, are, it must be admitted, a curtailment of our valued right to assent or refuse to assent to proposals of expenditure. They must, therefore, be very strictly construed. They must be construed in the way which a penal section is construed, viz., that the scope must be severely limited to the object for which it has been framed. I have already mentioned that in this Budget, a very large amount of money has been withdrawn from our vote. Now, if the items of expenditure which have been withdrawn from our vote were all covered by sub-section (3) of section 11 of the Government of India Act, 1919, I would have little to say. But, looking into the details, I am perplexed to find items of expenditure which I venture to think cannot possibly be covered by sub-section (3) of section 11 of the Government of India Act, 1919. Let me give to the Council some instances of expenditure which

have been withdrawn from our vote. In page 25 of the Budget estimate for 1921-22, hon'ble members will find, under the head "Survey and Settlement—Office Establishment—Peons," Rs. 848—non-voted. Then again in the same page, under the sub-head of "Contingencies—Job Work," Rs 10,756—non-voted Further, in the next page, under the sub-head of "Salaries—Deputy and Sub-Deputy Magistrates," Rs 60,000—non-voted. Also in the same page, under the sub-head "Establishment—Steam-launch—Boat and Elephant Establishment," Rs 1,000—non-voted, "Servants," Rs 6,000—non-voted; "Temporary Establishment," Rs. 11,000—non-voted There are instances also in the next page Let me give you some Under the sub-head "Allowances—Travelling Allowance"—Rs. 20,000—non-voted Again, in the same page, under the sub-head "Contingencies—Diet and Travelling Allowance to Witnesses," Rs. 12,00—non-voted, "Liveries to Peons," Rs 500—non-voted Then in page 28, under the sub-head "Contingencies—Purchase and Repair of Typewriters"—

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: The hon'ble member is under a misapprehension These items relate to the excluded areas of Darjeeling and the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: The Budget is strewn with items of expenditure, which, I submit, cannot possibly be covered by sub-section (3) of section 11 of the Government of India Act, 1919 I would like to ask the Hon'ble Member by what process of reasoning or by what ingenuity items of expenditure like these have been brought within the exceptions provided in sub-section (3) of section 11. As I have said already these exceptions are a curtailment of our right to vote supplies, and we must be perpetually on our guard that no elasticity, as is attempted here, is given to them by construction or otherwise. Some day reserved subjects will come to us, and we shall have more complete control over them, but some items of expenditure, as in England, must always remain not to be voted upon. It is, therefore, most important that we should challenge this attempt to bring within the category of "non-voted" items of expenditure which cannot possibly come within the purview of sub-section (3) of section 11 of the Government of India Act, 1919 I may say at once that I do not wish to impute any motives to any one for perpetrating what appears to me as a serious infringement of our right to vote supplies. In the absence, however, of any explanation, it does seem that the Budget has been carelessly framed. It may be that in the great hurry in which the present Budget had to be framed, some amount of confusion was inevitable. At the same time, however, when haste or carelessness results in a serious infringement of one of our most cherished rights we must condemn it.

Sir, there is one other matter, with which I should like to deal before I close. I find, Sir, from the Budget that the reserved

departments are going to have Rs. 8 crores and the transferred departments Rs. 4 crores. Thus the great vital departments which have been transferred, will have considerably less money at their disposal than the reserved departments. Now, is this fair? The departments which have been transferred, have been described by the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea as the "nation-building" departments. That description, if I may say so, is quite appropriate, for upon the activities of these departments depend entirely the progress and welfare of the people of this province. But, Sir, while there is no lack of appreciation of the importance of the transferred departments, there is, I fear, a woeful lack of ambition on the part of the Ministers who are in charge of them. Where is the evidence of any large constructive policy which they have in view? It is true that they assumed office only on the 3rd January last, and perhaps it is too early yet to pronounce any judgment upon what they have done. But at the same time we must bear in mind that the span of their official life is only three years, and, while it would be foolish to expect so early that they should be engaged in building noble structures, it would be quite within the limits of reasonableness to expect to see them at least start burning bricks. And you cannot have bricks without straw. Now let us examine for a moment some of the new schemes which the Hon'ble Ministers desire to carry into execution during the coming financial year. I find that the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri proposes to spend the appalling sum of Rs. 5,000 on five agricultural farms. Then I find that the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea intends to spend an additional sum of Rs. 15,000 on mufassal dispensaries, which works out at less than Rs. 2 per year on each dispensary. And we see that the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter has no higher ambition than to spend an additional sum of Rs. 1 lakh on primary education in the mufassal, which works out at less than a farthing per head of the school-going population of Bengal. Now I should like to ask the Hon'ble Ministers if these new schemes, which I have mentioned, afford any evidence of large or ambitious policies, which some of us would like them to pursue. Sir, I deplore—I greatly deplore—that our Ministers should be content with just carrying on in the first year of their existence. It would be no use saying later that they had not sufficient money. The obvious answer would be that they failed to secure more money. Sir, it is in no carping spirit that I make these observations. I am one of those who are anxious to make the Reforms a success. And that is why I ask the Ministers, our representatives in the Cabinet, to make a survey of the urgent needs of the country and launch out, without delay, their schemes, supported by many-sided activities.

Mr. W. L. TRAVERS: The chief arguments which have been advanced for the payments from the balances of the deficit in the Budget of next year are apparently four. First of all there is the reference which has been made by this Government and supported by this House, to the

Government of India for revision of the unfair and unjust policy with which Bengal has been treated in regard to revenue; secondly, there is the point that the time for the preparation of the Budget was very limited; thirdly, we know that the Ministers had lately been appointed to their arduous task and had not the time to examine the necessities of their departments; and fourthly, Sir, I think we may say that trade generally and the chief industries of Bengal are doing very badly. Well, Sir, taking all these arguments into consideration, I think fresh taxation and apparently large new taxation will undoubtedly be necessary for the development of this province and the progress of the people towards a higher standard of health, sanitation and education. We have just gone through the large expenditure involved by the war and I fear, that, if any taxation, and heavy taxation, be imposed two years hence not only will there be dislocation in commerce and interference with trade, but also considerable hardship and discontent among the people. Hence, Sir, I consider that it would have been a wiser policy on behalf of Government to make a beginning in the coming year. I do not know, Sir, if I am in order in directing the attention of Government towards a fresh source of revenue, but I think that there is a growing feeling amongst the educated people of Bengal that larger duties upon the sale of alcohol, of *ganja* and of opium and its preparations are most advisable. The increase of these duties would lessen much evil, while it would have the effect of bringing in considerably more revenue. If I am permitted to direct the attention of Government towards another source of revenue, I should like to examine the proposal to levy upon all estates say, of over half a lakh, a moderate death duty.

The estimates under the head of Agriculture show an increase of about Rs 3½ lakhs, a total of Rs 21½ lakhs. I am one of those who desire to see a much more forward policy on behalf of Government in regard to the improvement of agricultural education. In a country wherein industry, including the tea industry, is very largely agricultural, not only is an immense increase in the weight and quality of the staple crops to be looked for, but there are thousands and thousands of acres of land which only require agricultural knowledge and suitable crops to make them profitable. Although we have recently heard that this is the policy of Government, and we wait to see the result of the two agricultural schools that are in existence, I think there is a very much wider field in respect of agricultural education and that expenditure on agriculture should be speeded up in the next few years.

Under Education one notices an increase of a lakh for primary education, which has already been referred to by the previous speaker I should like to see this amount spent upon schools wherein only reading, writing and simple mathematics would be taught by teachers fully qualified, who have themselves been taught the art of teaching. To me the whole structure of education appears to be growing more and more unwieldy and more and more top-heavy. It is surely far wiser to spend

the money available upon a sound system of primary education as a foundation for all education, than to pour out the funds upon higher schools and colleges with a fertile crop of half-educated and discontented young men, not good enough for a mental profession, while too proud to work upon that most honourable calling of farming of the land. I therefore strongly urge that this lakh should be spent on practical education in the mulassal

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: A careful perusal of the Budget and examination of its figures has not been a comfortable task with me It did not bring in one's mind much of comfort or hopefulness. A new era has been ushered into existence an era which was expected to be one of continued progress, and not of difficulties, and hopelessness. I use the word "hopelessness" advisedly for more money has to be found, to-day or to-morrow, and imposition of fresh taxes will be necessary Therefore a crisis is ahead of us. Administrative progress will be meaningless if it be not based on financial equalities and improved income--leaving a good credit balance for future years May I request to be told if the present Budget, as it is, gives us any indication of what a good Budget—the first Budget of the new era—ought to be, and ought to have been.

In fact there is no indication of any definite and progressive policy, which was expected to be laid down by the new Government Schemes have been framed to be accepted by Government, but critics will say, with sufficient justification, that the departmental heads who have framed them have proved too strong for Government. In the concluding paragraph of his note, the Hon'ble the Finance Member has enumerated the subjects which require prompt attention, but so far as can be seen there is no attempt to tackle these problems well. For instance, take first *Primary Education*. It is said that a special officer is engaged in drawing up a scheme. When the scheme is drawn up and accepted, where is the money to come from? The only extra grant given for primary education in the coming year is a sum of one lakh of rupees, besides Rs. 40,000 for increase of pay of teachers—an increase which was long overdue. These are very poor allotments, to be sure. For, are we not told by all the official and non-official world, both here and in England, that, what the people of this country need is primary education, and that the primary object of the Government is to do all they can in this matter of supreme importance? I therefore ask, in all seriousness, if these two items of allotments for primary education are sufficient to make even a small good beginning. We all know that other Governments of this country are doing much better in this respect. I note that large sums of money, *e.g.*, Rs. 80,000 and Rs. 20,000, are allotted, respectively, for two institutions in which Europeans are interested, namely, the St. Andrew's Colonial Homes, Kalimpong, and the Loreto Convent, Entally. It may, in this connection, be mentioned that

the statement submitted by the Financial Department nowhere shows whether these grants are recurring or non-recurring. A further sum of Rs. 50,000 is given as building grants for European schools. The result is that, of the whole of the new allotment of Rs. 4,90,000 for grants-in-aid, a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 is taken away by the European schools.

Take again *Agriculture*. The net result of the activities of this department has been practically nil. The only achievement this department boasts of, year after year, is the discovery of a new kind of rice and a new kind of jute. It is said that, if these varieties are adopted by the cultivators, the quantity of these two staple products of Bengal will considerably increase. But the question is, assuming that these two varieties will bring in salvation how many of the people have up to date taken to sowing these classes? When were these phenomenal discoveries made, and what addition to the country's agricultural wealth has been made since then? If Government are convinced of the excellence of these two varieties, sufficient energy and money ought to be spent on the propagation of the knowledge among the people, instead of spreading its activities in numerous other directions which, owing to insufficiency of financial backing, produce no results. To illustrate, I may mention Sericulture. Rs. 11,000 is provided for the appointment of a Deputy Director of Sericulture. How will the creation of such an appointment improve this industry?

The creation of such a costly appointment is a useless waste of public money, unless you at the same time put sufficient funds at the disposal of this officer to initiate practical measures for the revival of this dying industry. Instead of doing this, a sum of Rs. 21,000 is provided for a dairy farm in connection with the Dacca Vernacular School. If such a farm is to be opened, this should be done somewhere near Calcutta, where pure milk, even for babies, is a sort of luxury, rather than in Dacca, where milk can be had comparatively easily. Further, if the progress of other departments is suffering for want of funds, what is the immediate necessity of building costly quarters at a cost of Rs. 45,000 for the assistants of the Dacca Farm?

This lack of policy and imagination is indicated by the fact that important departments, like Education, Agriculture, Sanitation and Industry, cannot utilise their Budget grants and savings occur year after year. Such a state of affairs implies either that there is no scope for further expansion of these departments or that the officers at the helm of these departments are not sufficiently enthusiastic over the subjects under their charge.

Now to speak of forests: if the Government are convinced, as every one is, of the potentiality of the forest products, the right course is to develop the department properly instead of wasting money, as has hitherto been done, on fishery, which, during all the years of its existence, can claim no result to its credit.

While some of the most useful departments are suffering for want of money, want of forethought and lack of imagination and boldness, the expenditure of other departments, particularly the General Administration and Police, is growing to alarming dimensions. It is no use trying to set up a full show of a civilised and progressive Government, by opening this branch and that, with full knowledge that Government cannot spend sufficient money for their proper development. If money is scarce, there is all the more reason for the exercise of caution, and concentration of energies on a few chosen subjects, instead of a lavish expenditure without a definite scheme of progress.

It has been stated that the new Government has been confronted with the task of preparing the present Budget within six weeks of its existence. Such a plea is hardly worth consideration. The Ministers and Members are all men who have devoted their life to the consideration of the needs and requirements of the country and the condition of the provincial finance. They have undertaken their present task not without a knowledge of its difficulties, and it can hardly be believed that they have as yet no idea of the line of action they proposed to take.

Turning now to specific heads, I find the provision of Rs. 29,00,000 for Survey and Settlement, as against Rs. 20,00,000, actuals of 1919-20, and Rs. 24,50,000 revised estimate of the current year. This is an exceedingly heavy allotment in the present financial crisis. In this connection it is to be remembered that we had to submit to enforced economy during war period. New proposals for any expenditure were carefully scrutinized and only urgent and unavoidable expenditure was permitted. High prices of food-stuffs and clothing was a grave contingency and the purchasing power of the rupee was greatly reduced; and with all this leeway to make up, and in view of the difficulties in the way of making it up, the Presidency is faced with an unparalleled demand for development in every direction. Owing to financial restrictions during the war, Bengal accumulated certain balances, and it is now proposed to dip deep into this provincial balance to meet part of the pressing demands of the current year, Rs. 2,08,31,000 will be drawn from the balance in 1921-22. In view of all these, there appears to be no reason why some of the settlement operations cannot be postponed till the pressing demands of the more useful departments are met, or the provincial resources are pretty accurately gauged.

Similarly, the very heavy increase against "High Court," under "Administration of Justice," should not be allowed. The revised arrangements introduced in the High Court have produced very widespread discontent and disapproval, and the matter ought to be further examined.

Coming to the *Police*, it seems that the cost of the Presidency Police, which was Rs. 21,36,000 in 1918-19, is now proposed to be put at Rs. 36,37,000—an increase of nearly 80 per cent. in four years. The Police charge has been the subject of severe comment in the past, but

without any effect. The arrangement in regard to the District Charitable Society requires further elucidation than has been given in the Financial Secretary's note. Again, the provision of Rs. 20,000 for increased rent for sergeants' quarters and again of Rs. 2,83,000 for acquisition of land for married sergeants require scrutiny. Considering the class of men from whom sergeants are recruited, the accommodation which is provided for them is certainly too costly, and the palatial buildings at Lall Bazar ought to be an object of envy even of the European merchant princes in the city. The cost of acquisition of land is not the last item under this head. Cost of construction of buildings and cost of furniture and electric lighting arrangements are to be added, and the total bill of cost will be a substantial one. This Council can certainly aptly ask: What is the rental value per mensem of each of the quarters proposed to be provided? Further, what is meant by the "Higher subordinate staff," whose pay is proposed to be raised. Does the term include Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners or Inspectors only? We all know that the pay of Deputy Commissioners has been already raised, and therefore I have yet to learn why the cost should be so much as Rs. 1,50,000 for giving an increment to Inspectors only, in face of the fact that the pay of the whole of the Inspectors in the Bengal Police will cost only Rs. 2,75,000.

Coming to the Bengal Police, it seems that the cost of the Criminal Intelligence Branch, which includes the Special Branch, has remained almost stationary for the last three years and yet it is claimed that on the improvement of the political atmosphere of the country, the staff of the Intelligence Branch has been reduced. Now that the war has ceased and secret organisations no longer exist, there is no justification for maintaining a separate establishment with an officer of the rank of Deputy Inspector-General.

At the present juncture, when on the one hand, high hopes have been raised in the minds of the people by the initiation of the first stage of responsible Government and on the other hand these hopes are likely to be shattered, owing to the provincial bankruptcy, it stands to reason and prudence that the utmost economy should be exercised in taking up non-productive schemes, so that it may be possible even in the next Budget to make a decent beginning of those useful projects which the Financial Member has mentioned. But from the gloomy picture drawn by him, with revenue showing no signs of steady increase, and expenditure growing up by leaps and bounds, it seems that if the present Budget is not severely curtailed, it will be impossible to make up the deficit. With the rise in the cost of living the charges for subordinate establishment are bound to increase more and more, and I am convinced that a sum of Rs. 46,00,000 provided for the increase of pay for ministerial officers and menial staff will not at all meet the exigencies of the case.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, asked for permission to speak a few words more).

The PRESIDENT: You may speak for 2 or 3 minutes more.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: The provision made for other services, namely, the subordinate educational service, etc., may similarly be found insufficient. I, therefore, appeal with all the earnestness I can command, that every item in the Budget be thoroughly scrutinised to find out where retrenchment is possible or where additional expenditure is not immediately necessary or imperative.

Raja RESHEE CASE LAW: It is unfortunate that the Reformed Council should commence its work under much depressed circumstances with a deficit of over two crores of rupees. The reason for this deficit has been very lucidly explained by the Financial Member while introducing the Budget in the Council. The diminution in the revenue is due mainly to the transference of the Income-tax receipt to the Imperial head. The excess in the expenditure over the revised estimate of 1920-21 is principally due to the high cost of living as a consequence of severe economic stress necessitating an increase of pay in all the services, and to carrying out the necessary improvements that had to be stopped or kept in abeyance owing to the war. I cannot sufficiently admire the Government for the sympathetic consideration and interest displayed by them on behalf of the poor ministerial officers and menial servants, who with their low pay are suffering much in these hard times. Notwithstanding the deficit, our Finance Member has found a way out to tide over this difficulty at least for 1921-22 by utilising the unspent balances which accumulated during the period of the war. In the allocation of definite sources of revenue our Presidency has not been generously treated by the Government of India, as, in all justice, they should have done. We would certainly have been in a very great fix, had there not been the accumulated balances which have so fortunately come to our relief at the present juncture. The heads of revenue allotted to us being already insufficient to meet our expenditure in 1921-22, our difficulty in future years, even in 1922-23, would greatly increase, owing to the increase of our recurring charges, when we will have no accumulated balances to fall back upon. Jute is the special produce of our Presidency, and Bengal alone is entitled to have the income derived from such a source, and it would be sheer injustice on the part of the Government of India, if they claim this right and insist on retaining it in their own hands without giving it up to Bengal. The revenue from this source would greatly relieve us from this difficulty in our financial position.

I should like to state with regard to the Grand Trunk Canal project which would necessarily involve the destruction of many houses, that instructions should be given to make the alignment in such a way as to avoid harassment of poor people as far as possible, so that they may

not be homeless, and, at the same time, be subjected to no unnecessary hardships.

I should also observe that in the Budget, provision has been made for the establishment for the preparation of paper-books in the High Court, and the amount is to be realised by means of Court-fees. I should state that according to the new rules of the High Court, enforced in September last, the cost of printing paper-books have been enormously raised, and the former convenience as to payment of printing costs has been taken away, with the result that the number of appeals would considerably decrease. It has become necessary that Government should interfere to lessen the hardship imposed upon poor litigants. The effect of this state of things would be not only to diminish Government revenue, but also to virtually close the door of justice against people seeking redress.

The rate of interest charged on loans advanced by Government to local bodies has been raised to 6 per cent. I can say from personal experience that the incomes of the district boards are so inelastic, that it will not be possible for them to take advances from Government at that rate of interest with a view to construct new roads and make other improvements within their jurisdiction, simply because they will feel the utmost difficulty in paying off interest from their limited resources, and consequently, developments and works of improvements would suffer a good deal.

Our prospects for the future is, as I have stated before, rather gloomy. Though our financial difficulties have been represented to the Government of India with our appeal to accord to us their special consideration, yet, supposing that no such consideration is made, or the consideration turns out to be too inadequate for our purpose, and the revenue derived from jute be not renounced in our favour, then the difficulties of our position may be better imagined than described, and the effect would be the imposition of heavy taxes upon the already overburdened people of Bengal.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: The Budget, which the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr has presented to the House is a chapter of disappointments from beginning to end. The most distressing feature of the Budget, as has been already pointed out by Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri, is the complete wiping off of the last year's unspent balance earmarked for expenditure under the heads of Education, Sanitation and Agriculture. These consisted entirely of Imperial grants specially made for the above purposes, they amounted to nearly a crore and a half of rupees; in spite of our attempts in the past we were scrupulously prevented from drawing upon them on the ground that the schemes were not ready. Most solemn pledges were made to us that they would be utilised as soon as the schemes were ready. The Government, with its well-known apathy towards the cause of education and sanitation, could never find the time to perfect these schemes, and now, with its characteristic antipathy

towards these subjects, have thought it fit to forget all about their sacred promises and diverted nearly the whole amount of these grants to other directions, leaving the Ministers to depend entirely on the resources of the country in furthering the cause of education and sanitation. Sir, talking of Ministers, I cannot help remarking that they lay themselves open to a grave charge of both oversight and want of foresight in being a party to permit the Government to utilise for other purposes that part of last year's closing balance which consisted of special Imperial grants for education, sanitation and agriculture. Sir, this has undoubtedly deprived the Ministers of a substantial reserve, and when the time comes to give effect to the schemes for which the Imperial grants were specially made, they would have only two alternatives left to them, either to secure a larger allotment to their departments from the current revenue of the province or to impose a fresh tax on the people. As to the second alternative, I doubt very much if the country would submit to taxation to make amends for their negligence. I, however, do not know whether in agreeing to the exploitation of their earmarked reserve, our Ministers have any assurance of their colleagues of the Executive Council that the latter would allow them in addition to their normal demands further allotments, as needs arise, at least to the extent of last year's earmarked balance.

Sir, I would now take up the Land Revenue Budget. It really filled us with high hopes, when the portfolio for the same was taken up by our premier zamindar, the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan. But I regret that at least in settlement expenses and realisation of costs, he has gone in the way of and perhaps a step further than his predecessors in office, and has thus belied a good deal of our hopes in him. For the last four years, during every Budget debate, I have been discussing the hardships entailed on the raiyats and zamindars alike by huge settlement schemes and the annual levy in the shape of enormous costs therefor. I always held and do still stick to the view, that the outlay of money and energy on settlement operations is useless so long as provisions are not made to keep the records corrected up to date. My idea has been to proceed slowly and to provide for a permanent machinery for corrections just as they become necessary. But I have always met with a rebuff; and fresh operations were undertaken every year at an enormous cost. It was pointed out by former Revenue Members that these operations did not cost anything to the Provincial Government, as the entire outlay was met by the Imperial Government and the zamindars and the raiyats and so, Sir, no account was taken of the difficulties and inconveniences of the latter even during the late war and recent visitations of cyclones, floods and famine. Sir, even when during the war, the Imperial Government was reluctant to advance money any further for this purpose, the then Revenue Member, Sir Nicholas Beatson-Bell, was so much infatuated with these settlement operations, that he simply bled us white by trebling his ruthless realisation from

Rs. 9 lakhs, the figures for 1914, to Rs. 29 lakhs in 1917, and thus, caring naught for further Imperial advance, he went on merrily riding his hobby-horse. My expostulations, Sir, had some effect when he was succeeded by Sir John Cumming. In 1919, the costs realised were reduced to Rs. 15 lakhs and, in 1921, to Rs. 10 lakhs. The expenses, too, were substantially reduced. But, Sir, the Budget of the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan has again increased the realisation to nearly Rs. 17 lakhs and the outlay to over Rs. 27 lakhs, in spite of the fact that the excuse of the money coming from the Imperial Exchequer no longer holds good, because, under the present rules, the whole amount shall have to be advanced by the Provincial Government, and a quarter of this amount shall have to be borne by it ultimately. We hoped, Sir, that the Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan, being himself a zamindar, was fully aware that during these Settlement proceedings the zamindars have got to keep a staff, the charges of which amount to nearly what the Government spends for the purpose, and further, he surely knows that, when, in the same division, Settlement operations are taken up simultaneously in two or more districts, they not only inconvenience the zamindar, but amount to a practical impossibility to him on account of money and trained men to watch the proceedings on his behalf. Sir, we expected a better treatment at the hands of our present Revenue Member, who knows all these from practical experience. Sir, meeting rebuff so often, I know not whether my submissions in this connection, would again fall on deaf ears, but I shall be failing in my duty if I do not once more appeal to the Member in charge to take our difficulties into his serious consideration and, if possible, to dole out some relief to us. My first request to him would be to recast the programme and, instead of four sets of settlement parties, to have only two, each working in different divisions. As the Government bears a quarter of the costs, my next request would be that the recovery and outlay should always bear a ratio of 3 to 4. I would further request the Government to fix a reasonable and definite sum which would be spent annually on major operations. This is necessary to keep a zealous Revenue Member in check, so that he may not be tempted to outlay a prodigious sum on the assurance that only a quarter of the same is payable by the Government. As for the present Budget, which is a deficit one, I venture to hope that, considering the financial difficulties of the Government, the outlay should be reduced from Rs. 27 lakhs to at least Rs. 16 lakhs, and the amount to be realised, to Rs. 12 lakhs. Sir, when during the war, I remonstrated with Sir Nicholas Beatson Bell, I was met with the argument as to the difficulties of providing for the people, who would necessarily go out of employment. Fortunately that difficulty need not distress us now, inasmuch as we are appointing a large number of circle officers under the local self-government scheme, and so the services of these discharged kanungoes and sub-deputy collectors can be well utilised.

Sir, before I sit down, I have one more appeal to make and that to our Ministers. I appeal them not to fail like the Members, who were formerly in charge of their departments, in not fully utilising the sums allotted to them, for want of schemes. Sir, the need of the country is there. Let not lethargy and dilatoriness in the production and perfection of schemes make the allotments lapse.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: John Bright, in one of the speeches, said: "Tell me what the financial position of a country is, and I will tell you all about the character of its Government and the position of the people." Judged by this standard, the position as disclosed by the present Budget is not one on which we can congratulate ourselves. The Finance Department has, no doubt, made a heroic struggle against the inherent limitations created by the new financial readjustment between the Central and the Provincial Governments. It is up to us, both inside and outside the Council, to bring home to the Government of India the injustice of the treatment meted out to Bengal and to press for a fairer and a more equitable adjustment. This year no doubt the ingenuity of the Finance Department will enable us to tide over our difficulties by having recourse to the accumulated balances of the last few years, but surely such a makeshift arrangement—and the Government candidly admit that it is nothing but a makeshift—I say, such an arrangement cannot be a part of our permanent financial policy. The fact cannot be overlooked that, notwithstanding the large sum drawn from accumulated balances, next year the budgeted expenditure on some of the matters of most vital importance—those that may be said to constitute the nation-building departments—is hopelessly inadequate.

Sir, it is no use disguising the fact that, with the inauguration of the Reforms and with the installation of popular Ministers in the Cabinet, we all hoped that Bengal had definitely turned a new corner and that a new vista had opened out to her gaze, but, Sir, to our great disappointment it must be confessed that the Budget which has been placed before us affords little encouragement for such a hope.

Not only is there that huge deficit of over two crores—a deficit which cannot be met except by recourse to unsound finance—but, what is worse, we do not find any indications whatever in the Budget that the distribution of the available funds under the various heads of expenditure represents any marked improvement upon, or a striking departure from the past policy of the Government. The Hon'ble Mr. Kerr himself had to admit in introducing the Budget that the proportion of grants which had been put down between reserved and transferred subjects was exactly the same as in previous years—65 per cent. for the former and 35 per cent. for the latter.

I cannot claim that I have been able this year to examine all the figures in the Budget as minutely and fully as with increasing experience of this kind of work I hope to do in future, but even a cursory glance

through the pages of the Budget is enough to show the utter inadequacy of the provision on such important transferred heads as Education, Medical, Public Health, and Agriculture and Industries, as contrasted with some of the reserved subjects say, Police, for instance.

The total expenditure of the Province which is budgeted for the coming year, is, as you will observe, Rs. 11,80,13,000. Nearly one-sixth of this is swallowed up by the Police alone; the expenditure under this head, to be precise, being Rs. 1,90,85,000. As against this, the total under Medical, Public Health, Agriculture and Industries, which includes technical education as well, comes up, Sir, to Rs. 1,06,10,000, and that on Education, including European education, which is a reserved subject, and the Dacca University, which gets Rs. 9,00,000, is Rs. 1,26,07,000.

Being associated with education for over a quarter of a century, it is only natural that I should confine my attention to that section of the Budget which deals with this subject. Under the first minor head, a sum of Rs. 10,68,000 has been provided for the Calcutta and Dacca Universities. Of this sum Rs. 9,00,000 goes to Dacca, Rs. 40,000 to the Dacca Intermediate Board and Rs. 1,28,000 only to the Calcutta University, which represents the recurring Imperial grant which the Government of India had pledged themselves to, and is made up of Rs. 20,000 to the Law College, Rs. 30,000 for Administration, Rs. 65,000 for Development and Rs. 13,000 for the Minto Professorship. The sum of Rs. 65,000 mentioned above is made up of the following items: Readership, Rs. 4,000, Hardinge Professorship, Rs. 12,000, George V Professorship Rs. 12,000, Sir Tarak Palit's Laboratory, Rs. 12,000, post-graduate teaching Rs. 12,000 and the Law College, Rs. 10,000.

Sir, the grant of this Rs. 1,28,000 is no special generosity, but is merely the redemption of the pledge given by the Government of India.

No one will, I think, venture to suggest that the Calcutta University does not stand in need of money. As a matter of fact the financial stress is acute—it is verging on bankruptcy. I know there is a feeling in some quarters that the present difficulties of the Calcutta University are due to extravagant expenditure, and that, if the University authorities had practised a little more economy in certain directions they might have stood in an easier condition. But with all its imperfections, the fact remains that the Calcutta University has established a claim to be recognised as a teaching University more than any other University in India. Its developments so far have no doubt been somewhat one-sided, viz., in the department of Letters, but it cannot be disputed that it has also laid the foundation of an Institute of Science and Technology, with the benefactions of two of our most illustrious countrymen and if it has not found it possible to expand, it is simply due to lack of funds. The published records of the University will go to show how repeatedly the University authorities have approached the Government of India for aid of the Science College, but besides allowing them to utilise a sum of

Rs. 12,000 annually out of the lump grant of Rs. 65,000 for the maintenance of the Laboratory the Government of India have persistently turned a deaf ear to all their appeals. The University has also, on several occasions, represented to the Government of India their difficulties on account of lack of accommodation, and the Calcutta University Commission in their report have also dwelt at some length on this question—but all in vain.

I have made inquiries and have ascertained that as soon as the University authorities realised that in future they would have to rely on the Government of Bengal for financial help, the Vice-Chancellor and Syndicate of the Calcutta University addressed two letters to the Government of Bengal, dated the 5th of February 1921, one requesting financial assistance of Rs. 11,00,000 or a part thereof, towards the cost of erection of a suitable building on the Fish Market, and the other for a capital grant of Rs. 10,00,000 for the development of Technological studies in connection with the University College of Science, to be applied under the following heads:—

	Rs.
Applied Chemistry	4,65,000
Applied Physics	2,10,000
Applied Botany (including Agriculture)	2,00,000
Library of the Science College	1,25,000
Total ...	10,00,000

I see no indication in the Budget that any notice has been taken of these two letters. I wonder if this Government is going to take up the same attitude of indifference and apathy as that of the Government of India.

Then I do not find any specific mention of the sum of Rs. 1,29,000, which represents the grant to Private Colleges unless it is included in the provision of Rs. 1,07,000 for grants-in-aid to Colleges—General, under the minor head of General Expenditure on page 102 of the Civil Budget estimate. The Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Education, will, I hope, enlighten us on this point.

As against the meagre grant of Rs. 1,28,000 to the Calcutta University the ensuing year's Budget provides Rs. 9,00,000 for the Dacca University, Rs. 10,000 for the Dacca Intermediate Board and Rs. 2,00,000 for the construction of buildings for Intermediate Colleges for Dacca. The Budget is absolutely silent as to how the Rs. 9,00,000 just mentioned, is going to be spent. As trusted custodians of public funds, this Council has a legitimate right to have details before it is called upon to vote the grant. It must not be imagined that the Dacca University, except being residential and unitary, is going to break new ground. The work that will be done there will be nothing but a duplication of the type of work done at present by the Calcutta University and carried on with

no better staff. In fact, in some cases, men doing post-graduate work in the Calcutta University have been taken away to Dacca by the offer of higher salaries, with the result that a higher scale of pay will be introduced there, which is bound to react on the University here. Huge palatial buildings, I understand, have been placed at the disposal of the Dacca University. We have no information whatever as to how they are going to be utilised. We have no idea of the number of students that must be accommodated at Dacca, and yet we are going to be asked to vote Rs. 2,00,000 for the construction of buildings there.

As to secondary education, the ensuing year's Budget provides for Rs. 25,99,000 whereas the revised estimate for the current year is Rs. 26,01,000. Mark the progressive scale of expenditure! It was only the other morning this House passed a resolution in all seriousness for the preparation of a scheme in furtherance of vocational training in our schools, and the Hon'ble the Minister of Education gave us a pledge that he would do his best to give effect to it as early as possible. And the word 'early' in this particular context means 'immediate.' In the light of the Budget, it appears as nothing but a huge mockery. Sir, the importance of secondary education ought not to be belittled. It has been characterised as the pivot of all educational reform. And yet the Budget for the ensuing year is a sure proof of how the claims of such an important department of education have been most ruthlessly ignored.

The Budget for primary education does not present us with any brighter picture. The Hon'ble the Finance Member in reviewing the general financial situation observes: "Of the other schemes which the Education Department propose to undertake next year, the most important are Rs. 1,00,000 for primary education in the mufassal, Rs. 40,000 for the pay of teachers in primary schools" . . . . .

I do not quote the rest of the statement, as it does not relate to primary education. It tells its own tale. This is all the money that the Finance Department has been able to find for the *further* improvement of primary education of Bengal—a province which contains 45 millions of people—over 95 per cent. of whom cannot read and write.

It is perfectly true what we need is money. But what is truer still, we need a change in the angle of vision, the power to take a true perspective of the whole situation. It is a truism which needs no reiteration that our salvation lies in our education, a statement which is admitted on all hands—but mere admission is absolutely of no use till it is translated into action. I am constrained to say the present Budget has signally failed in this direction. The Reforms are bound to be a failure—a dismal failure—till the present proportion between reserved and transferred subjects is reversed and is placed on a far more equitable basis.

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Before saying anything on the general aspect of the Budget, I should like to express my regret for not having been allowed sufficient time to go through the Budget.

It is a huge and voluminous task to make myself master of the same within such a short time. Moreover, many of us in this House are new to this work and without any experience.

The Budget, as presented before this Council, appears to be framed in so cumbrous a way that it is difficult for any one not familiar with it to make comments on it, as the details of expenditure have not been lucidly explained.

On opening the Budget we find an alarming notice of a deficit of nearly two crores of rupees. Of course this year the deficit has been met out of the reserved balance of the past years; but, no doubt, it is a great problem and we must think out a proper solution. If we propose any fresh taxation, it will surely raise an outcry on all sides. In the circumstances, I think it will be our duty to curtail, from the beginning, all possible items of expenditure which are unnecessary. The only hope that lies before us at this crisis is the possibility of the Government of India considering it desirable to transfer in our favour the income derived from the duty on jute.

Under the head of receipts, I find that there is a decrease in Stamps. I cannot understand the reason of this decrease, and I think, as suggested by Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri, the income under this head can be raised. The percentage of expenditure on the reserved subjects is, as already explained by the previous speaker, 65 per cent., and that on the transferred subjects 35 per cent., and I believe it is almost on a similar scale to that of previous years. But considering the importance of the transferred subjects and as much importance has to be given to these subjects by this House I should request the House to consider whether the proportion of the percentage is adequate or not. To my mind, if we want to promote education in a country, 95 per cent. of the population of which is illiterate, if we really want to combat with the insanitary condition of Bengal in most of the districts, we surely want more money, especially for primary education. From the Budget it will appear that there is a provision of only one lakh of rupees for this purpose; so I request the Finance Member to reconsider the matter.

As regards other big schemes, which require a large amount of money, I think that if it is possible, these schemes should be postponed for some years, or they may be carried on slowly till the financial position of the Government improves.

The item of receipts from High Court paper books seems to me, as already mentioned by Raja Reshee Case Law, to be unnecessary to have been incorporated in the Budget; to my mind, if Government want to interfere with it, it would bring hardship on the people.

As Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri and many other experienced members have been, and are, discussing the broad questions, I would not like to take any more time of the Council.

Colonel A. J. PUGH: I have a few criticisms to make on the Budget put forward. It is a matter of regret that we have to begin with a deficit of 2 crores of rupees. This, however, is not due to a falling off of revenue; there has been the usual increase, but this is due to the abnormal growth of expenditure, viz., Rs. 2½ crores more than the last Budget. I should like to know—it is difficult for the average person to find out—as to how this extra Rs. 2½ crores is going to be spent. There are two appendices at the end of the Budget statement marked "A" and "B;" these give the new schemes for the year under consideration, but if you add up the amount to be spent on the new schemes you get only Rs. 68 lakhs out of Rs. 2½ crores. These new schemes are no new schemes of work at all. A good many of them deal with increases of pay or allowances involving no work either for the Members or Ministers. I want to know what new work—apart from the kind of work which was being done under the old regime—is going to be undertaken by the new Ministers. Merely to substitute one set of men for another, is not what the public want; the old work must be carried on, but we want to see new undertakings begun. I shall illustrate my remarks by referring to two subjects, Agriculture and Sanitation, which are the most vital subjects affecting this province, and second to none.

Page 60 of the Budget shows that the Minister for Agriculture proposes to spend Rs. 80,000 only on new schemes of agriculture. Now an analysis of the Rs. 80,000 shows that Rs. 65,000 odd has to be spent on additional staff, Rs. 3,000 on replacing old microscopes, Rs. 7,000 for bullock (whether for purchase or feed is not stated), and Rs. 5,000 for the establishment of five new farms, working out at Rs. 1,000 a farm for the year. This is merely playing with the subject of agriculture, and I cannot congratulate the Minister on his first effort at nation-building.

Again let us take Medical and Public Health. I have searched the Budget in vain for a trace that the Grand Old Man of Bengal is determined to make an effort to rid the province of malaria. There is the same old spirit of tinkering, a dole here and a dole there, a dole for a water-supply scheme, a dole for a drainage scheme, a dole for increase of staff, increase of pay, but where are his schemes? I am not complaining of these doles, they are all right, but I expected to see something daring, something courageous, something for the everlasting good of the people. The Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea has been talking of self-government for some years past, but he will probably say, where is the money to come from? The answer is, firstly, that you are using up the balances of the province to repay Rs. 86 lakhs to the Government of India. Why do you consent to this when under the Devolution Rules the repayment may be spread over a period of 12 years? Why, therefore, repay on the 1st of April this year? You have got your experts; give your Sanitary Commissioner a chance; trust him and let him use these Rs. 86 lakhs in doing what he can to rid the province of malaria, if you do not

return it now, we shall have to pay Rs. 5 lakhs as interest at the end of 12 years. Could not this be found out of the Rs. 12 crores that you propose to spend in the course of the year? Surely that can be found. You will probably have to explain later why this House was not asked to consent to the repayment of this Rs. 86 lakhs. It is not put down among the demand for grants, although the law requires that every pice—unless it comes under the five specific exceptions—has to be voted upon. Therefore, even now, it is not too late to make a beginning. Again, why have you not made use of the power of raising money given to you under Schedule I of the Taxes Rules? You have been crying aloud for self-government for years, and now that it is granted, you are found unready. Where are your proposals? You have no programme; we have not yet heard of or seen a programme before any of the Ministers; I see no indication of any new schemes in the Budget, but if you have any, why not produce them? You certainly have not made any provision for them.

There are many Europeans in India who were against the grant of Reforms, but I think I may say that, now that we have got them, we are unanimous in seeing that the Reforms Schemes are made a success. I am sorry I do not find any evidence in the Budget of the policy of the Government in this matter. I should therefore tell you in a few moments what I should have liked to have seen to-day in the Budget.

I should have liked to have seen provision made for propaganda work on a large scale to bring home to the people the rights and privileges and the powers which have been conferred on them by the Reform Scheme.

Then, I should have liked to have seen provision for an organisation, for the purpose of ascertaining the views of the people as regards the methods by which the Reforms can be made a success, and incidentally fighting the methods of the shirkers, the non-co-operators.

Again, provision should have been made for having a department to correct the voters' lists and to keep them up to date. This is the most important item, as otherwise people who have a right to vote would be deprived of that right, as many Europeans were at the last election.

Provision should also be made for the supply to the people of rice, fish, and milk, the staple foods of the Bengali. Rice we have in plenty: I do not like control but in order that the economic laws of supply and demand may apply, the cultivator, before he decides how much rice to grow, should be given information not merely as to stocks but also as to probable demands. Every civilised country, except India, helps its cultivators in this respect. I desire to see a vigorous agricultural department which will make two blades grow where one grows now, which will make cows yield 10 seers of milk instead of 5 seers or less. I should like to say to the Minister in charge of Agriculture: "Wake up, and get a move on." I should have been glad if a large sum of money had been devoted to this department. There is plenty of fish to be had in

the delta of Bengal. The difficulty in providing a better fish-supply is one of transport. Why cannot the Government in the beginning subsidise persons or firms for this purpose.

Then, again, as regards the milk-supply. I do not want the Government to turn to trade, but it must organise and help dairy-farming on a large scale, and the Minister in charge of Education, I am told, has got much personal information on the subject; therefore it cannot be said that they know nothing about it.

I should have expected some provision in the Budget for improving communications, not only of Calcutta, but between the rural and urban portions of the country. The peculiar geographical position of Bengal will solve the problem of agriculture, malaria, sanitation, drainage and of communications by canals, etc., by one operation. Much could be said on this point, but time will not permit.

I would suggest some unity between the agricultural department and the sanitation department and they should, as far as possible, work together because they will find that their schemes coincide.

I should have expected the Government which passed the Rent Act to do something to solve the real problem of housing, but I find no provision for this in the Budget.

Again, I should like, lastly, to say that some scheme on a generous scale should be introduced to increase the agricultural prosperity of the people and to endeavour to eradicate malaria, of which over a million die every year.

If we cannot get all the money we want at once, we can at least make a beginning.

The Ministers are proud of being placed in charge of the nation-building departments; they have yet to prove to us that they are really nation-builders.

Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: It is with some diffidence that I rise to speak a few words on the Budget that has been presented to this Council for discussion. While our resources are restricted, our demands are great and they must go on increasing for years to come. And as the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr has so plainly said, we cannot make two ends meet without arriving at a patchwork compromise for the first year. Under these circumstances, what we ought to have done is to have used the pruning knife carefully. And I am afraid this is what we have not done. We have to fall back upon the balance, which is the aggregate of certain items earmarked by the Government of India. The balance has been arrived at by starving the schemes for which the sums were granted, and we do not know if we should do so. How are we to reconcile the disparity between the additional expenditure on the Police and the allotment on the primary education in a Presidency where, at present, not more than 6 per cent. of the male population receive education in the primary schools? Considering the economic pressure, and in view

of the abnormal rise in the cost of living, I do not grudge an increas of pay in the Police Department. But I must raise my voice in pro test against spending Rs. 20,000 in raising the rate of house rent fo the Sergeants of the Calcutta Police, Rs. 1,50,000 for revision of the higher subordinate executive staff, Calcutta Police, Rs. 2,75,000 or revision of the rates of pay of Inspectors of the Bengal Police, and last but not least, Rs. 2,83,000 for acquisition of land for married Sergeant of the Calcutta Police. I do not see why we should exhibit such tende solicitude for the comforts of the married Sergeants of the Calcutt. Police at the cost of the people of Bengal, when Indians in the rank o Deputy Magistrates, Munsifs and Additional and Sub-Judges are not provided with house accommodation? The cost of the Police is becoming disproportionately large, and the pruning knife should be applied here

Then, again, Sir, when we cannot afford to spend more than one lakh on primary education in the mufassal, it is proposed to allo Rs. 80,000 as "additional grant-in-aid to St. Andrew's Colonial Homes Kalimpong" How are the people of Bengal benefited by this institu tion in the hills, that such a large slice should be given to it? If it is considered necessary to help this institution in the hills, it should be helped from the revenue of the hill tracts. And while "additional building grants" for all Bengal amount to Rs. 1,00,000, "additional building grants to European schools" amount to Rs. 50,000! These grants should not be supported by the Council.

In this connection, I would press on the attention of the Council the urgent need for a non-residential college in the Dacca district. The students who pass their Matriculation examination from the High English Schools, in the district of Dacca, have to go east and west, and south and north, to secure admission in the colleges Some of them go to Barisal, some to Cooch Behar, and some to Calcutta. The Dacca University will be a residential unitary university. And I propose for the provision of a non-residential college affiliated to the Calcutta University within the district of Dacca, preferably in that part of the district which contains the largest number of High English Schools I would also recommend that effect should be given to the proposal to establish a Medical and an Engineering College as parts of the Dacca University, in East Bengal. I would ask the Minister in charge to raise the grants to the Sanskrit *tols* in general and to the Dacca Saraswat Samaj in particular. The Samaj is the oldest institution of its kind in East Bengal. And while congratulating the Government for its kind attention to Sanskrit learning, I cannot help remarking that the allotment on the head is hardly sufficient to keep the institutions in an efficient condition. The efficiency of these centres of Sanskrit learning will also help Sanskrit study in the University.

From education, I pass on to sanitation. Lord Carmichael said on one occasion that wherever he had gone in Bengal, he had heard of water scarcity This scarcity of drinking water in rural areas is a [illegible]

source of disease. Then we have to deal with malaria. The state of affairs was summed up in the Bengal Census Report of 1911 in the following words:—

> Year by year fever is silently at work. Plague slays its thousands. Fever its ten thousands. Not only does it diminish the population by death, but it reduces the vitality of the survivors, saps their vigour, and fecundity, and either interrupts the even tenor or hinders the development of commerce and industry.

Considering the importance of the subject, the allotment on this head must be considered meagre. A sum of Rs. 1,75,000 has been transferred to the Irrigation Department for carrying out certain anti-malarial schemes, while the Jangipur scheme is to get Rs. 21,000 and a sum of Rs. 19,000 is to be spent on anti-malarial survey of the area in the vicinity of Calcutta. Much has been said about the Grand Trunk Canal Scheme, but I am of opinion that the re-excavation of numerous canals in East Bengal will benefit the people more than the more ambitious scheme of the Grand Trunk Canal, designed to shorten the route between Calcutta and Eastern Bengal. The Grand Trunk Canal project is a productive irrigation work involving a very large capital outlay. I do not see why the project cannot wait till schemes of urgent necessity are pushed through. In this connection I recall what Mr. Phelps said in the Council last year: "Of late years the project has assumed another added importance, being bound up with the scheme for a greater Calcutta." That being so, the Calcutta Corporation and the Improvement Trust can easily bear the cost of this productive work, at least a major portion of it. Improvement in the means of communication, especially in East Bengal, is urgently needed. The resources of the District Boards are inadequate and the people are too poor to help themselves. I will take the case of the Dacca district. For 1919-20, the income from road cess was Rs. 1,51,381, while in one of the four subdivisions of the district, Munshiganj, a sum of Rs. 861 only was spent on new works, and a sum of Rs. 8,633 on repairs. The Government should contribute its quota for improving communications. Such being the case, it is necessary that we should keep back ambitious schemes involving large expenditure, at least till the question of the precise action to be taken in pursuance of the recommendation of the Joint Committee is settled once for all, and we find ourselves in a position to use our borrowing power in cases of necessity.

I have again to press on this Council the urgent necessity for improving the canals and other waterways of East Bengal, for which Rai Sree Nath Roy Bahadur pleaded so insistently in the Bengal Council. East year the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan said in the Council that this question, as involving sanitation, will be looked up. I hope this year a definite scheme will be adumbrated.

The people of Dacca have been crying themselves hoarse over the proposed railway from Dacca to Aricha. There is no reason why this

project should not be favourably considered, especially when the projected railway between Dacca and Tangail passing through a similar tract has found favour with the authorities. This line will get connection with quite a number of lines to make it profitable and will be of great use to the people. This railway is as urgent as the improvement of canals and the people of Dacca are yet in the dark about the decision of the Committee appointed last year to examine the railway scheme.

I regret that while the pay of the higher officers, from members of the Indian Civil Service to members of the Provincial Executive and Judicial Services have been increased, the question of the increase of the pay of those who deserve such increment most, is still under consideration. This is likely to create discontent among servants of the State.

Agricultural development, we are told, has received adequate attention, and for the continuance of the scheme for the distribution of improved paddy and jute seeds, a sum of Rs. 66,000 has been provided. Now, the virtues of *Kakiya Bombai* jute and *Indrasail* paddy have been so widely advertised by the Department of Agriculture, that one wonders why it is still necessary to distribute the seeds to the cultivators. In the Agricultural Year Book for 1919, we read: "The results of experiment carried on in a number of centres have proved conclusively the superiority of *Kakiya Bombai*." If this variety is grown in the *Capsularies* growing tract, alone, it would mean an increased output of 12 lakhs of bales worth, at Rs. 40 per bale, nearly 5 crores of rupees. For the *Indrasail* paddy it is claimed that if this paddy is grown in the 50 lakh acres suitable for it, there would be an aggregate increase of 3 crores of maunds, worth about 7½ crores of rupees. If all this is true, why does the cultivator feel chary to buy this seed? The question of cattle-breeding has been neglected in the Budget and I wish to draw the attention of the Minister in charge of the Department to it.

The cost of administration has increased enormously. We have to pay Rs. 64,000 a year for every one of four Members of the Executive Council and the three Ministers. As the Minister in charge of Sanitation, etc., said the other day, there is a feeling in the country that the Ministers should be less costly luxuries. And I wish our Ministers had set a noble example of self-sacrifice by offering to work without remuneration at least for the first ten or twelve years.

There are various other points on which one feels tempted to speak. But considering the time at the disposal of the Council, I will content myself with asking the Council to consider the points which I have raised, and resume my seat.

Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur: It is the first Budget under the Reforms Scheme. We have had not sufficient time to study the details of the Budget estimates, and our difficulty is enhanced by the fact that the estimates have not been clearly put, as has been said by Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri. Of course, I must say here that the Hon'ble Mr. Mitter

was kind to explain to us—some members of the Council—some general features of the Budget, at a private conference in his chambers at the Secretariat, and for this, we are thankful to him.

I must also preface my remarks on the Budget, with an expression of thanks to the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr, for having called a spade a spade, and revealed to us the real condition of the presidency under the Reforms. We start with a deficit and, consequently, want is writ large on the Budget. Under the circumstances, we must advocate for economy till we can meet our demands out of our revenue, independently of chance grants from the Government of India. The question of opening balance has been well dealt with by Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri, and I do not encroach upon the precious time of the Council by a further reference to it.

First of all, I would refer to the question of sanitation. Bengal is notoriously unhealthy, and the Government of India in their annual statement of the condition of India, 1919, admit that "it is difficult to perceive that sanitary development has taken place in India to any perceptible degree." His Excellency the Governor of Bengal said of malaria in the Presidency:

> Every year there occur in Bengal from 350,000 to 400,000 deaths from this cause alone. But a mere enumeration of the deaths gives but a faint idea of the ravages of the disease. It is probable that at least a hundred attacks of malaria occur for every death, and it is estimated that this disease alone is responsible for 200,000,000 (20 crore) days of sickness in the presidency every year. This gives an idea of its results from an economic point of view. Its spectral finger may also be traced in the diminution of birth-rate, as well as in the increase of death rate, with the result that in the worst malarial districts, the population shows a serious decline.

The condition is serious enough to engross our attention. And yet a larger sum has been allotted to secure the comforts of the Calcutta Police than to rid Bengal of this scourge.

In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister in charge to the Dolye Khal scheme in Dacca. The city of Dacca is divided by the Dolye Khal, which passes through its heart. The Khal, during the cold season, becomes dry, with patches of stagnant water here and there spread over it, in short, it becomes an elongated cesspool, and is a standing menace to public health, and unless speedy measures for its improvement by canalization be taken, I apprehend, Sir, malaria will find a permanent congenial lodgement, from which it will be difficult to remove, without an enormous cost.

On the 7th February last, I put certain questions on this subject, and the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department, in reply, admitted the insanitary condition of the Khal. He further said—I quote his own words: "A scheme for canalization has been drawn up by Rai Bahadur Shailendra Nath Banerji, who was deputed to investigate this project. The scheme is now under the consideration of the Government, but owing to lack of funds as also of officers in the Irrigation Department, it is not likely that the scheme will mature at an early date."

More than three years have passed away since the preparation and submission of the scheme, but no action has been taken. After the submission of the scheme, Rai Shailendra Nath Banerji has been transferred elsewhere, and it is not known what has become of the scheme. I wrote to the Secretary to the Legislative Council for a copy of the scheme with an estimate of cost; but unfortunately for me, I have not been favoured with a reply. When such works of utility and urgency have to be abandoned for want of funds, surely we are justified to protest against lavish expenditure on the Police, amounting to lakhs of rupees, the cost of "revision of the higher subordinate executive staff" of the Calcutta Police being Rs. 1,50,000. However, Sir, I submit that the Government will be pleased to consider whether it will be possible to carry out the scheme in the course of the next year and make due provision in the Budget before it becomes too late.

I may remark here, Sir, that one fails to understand why the Budget should provide Rs. 1,30,000 for establishment for preparation of paper-books in the High Court. I have doubts about the bulk of the cost being recovered from the litigants in the form of fees. And I have also my doubts about the estimated increase in the excise revenue, which is likely to be reduced by the non-co-operation movement in Bengal.

I would refer to the question of education. The bulk of the people of Bengal are sunk in deep ignorance, the percentage of literacy is deplorably low, and our attention should be given to afford facilities for the spread of primary education. It is a matter of regret that while Bombay spends 1 shilling per head of population Bengal spends about 2 pence. And it is proposed to give not more than Rs. 1,00,000 for primary education in the mufassal. The figure is too low. And a Government which can spend lakhs on the Police should be more generous in the matter of primary education. There is yet another point to which I would draw the attention of this Council—the additional grant of Rs. 80,000 to the St. Andrew's Colonial Homes, Kalimpong, an institution intended for a very limited community, whose claims on the revenues of Bengal fall far short of the claims of the people of Bengal.

In this connection, I would refer to the Dacca University. I congratulate the Department of Public Instruction on the practical materialisation of a long-pending scheme of a teaching and residential University at Dacca, for which a substantial allotment has been made in the Budget. But the University should be a self-contained, complete one, and in addition to the Faculties of Arts, Science and Law, the University should have the Faculty of Medicine also. The people of Dacca have long since been pressing for the establishment of a Medical College. It was brought to the notice of the Council last year, in the course of discussion of the Budget, by the Hon'ble Babu Sarat Chandra Chakravarti, the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Sreenath Roy and also by the Hon'ble Sir Nilratan Sarcar. The Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan on that occasion said—I quote his own words: "As regards medicine and agriculture,

provision has been made and it is not for any department to make any comments as to the possibilities of starting them or otherwise." On that occasion, Sir Henry Wheeler said—I quote his own words: "Apart from this, we have a wish expressed by Babu Sarat Chandra Chakravarti, that the Dacca University shall include a Medical Faculty; that is already dealt with in section 22 of the Act, and we shall now have to consider, in consultation with the Education Department, how the practical details can be worked out. All these raised hopes in us, that the Dacca University will include a Medical Faculty also. But, on a reference to the Budget estimate, we do not find any provision for a Medical College included in the Dacca University.

Sir, there is no Medical College in East Bengal, and the graduates and undergraduates of East Bengal, anxious to enter the Medical College in Calcutta, for carrying on the study of Medicine, find it extremely difficult to get admission for want of accommodation, and many of them, we are told, get disappointed in obtaining admission. I, therefore, submit Sir, that due provision be made in the Budget for a Medical College at Dacca.

In this connection, I would also refer to the question of intermediate colleges in the city of Dacca. This question was considered nearly two years ago, by a special sub-committee presided over by Mr. Turner, the then Principal of the Dacca College, and the unanimous opinion of the sub-committee was that, considering the large number of students who pass the matriculation examination every year from the different schools of East Bengal, the number of intermediate colleges to be opened should be four, inclusive of the two existing colleges, namely, the Dacca College and the Jagannath College, and a complete scheme was drawn up and submitted by the sub-committee. The proposed colleges were meant as a feeder to the University of Dacca. I am informed, Sir, that sites for construction of the proposed colleges have been selected, and notices of Land Acquisition proceedings have been issued. I find from the Budget estimates under the head of "Additional building grant," Rs. 1,00,000 only. I do not know, Sir, if this entire sum or any portion of it is meant for construction of buildings for the proposed intermediate colleges in Dacca; if the entire sum is meant for this purpose, I must say that it will be too inadequate and that it should be increased by another lakh of rupees. A very large number of students pass every year the matriculation examination from the different schools of East Bengal and more than one-half fail to get admission in the colleges of East Bengal for want of accommodation, and, on account of this difficulty, many are compelled to give up their studies. This, in the long run, tends to increase the number of the unemployed. If the four proposed intermediate colleges be opened, I doubt not it will, to a large extent, ease the situation, and make the Dacca University a success.

Lastly, Sir, I beg to draw the attention of the Council to a less ambitious project, namely, a weaving school at Dacca. You are well

aware, and history testifies to it, that Dacca was once the seat and centre of a prosperous industry. The cotton fabrics of Dacca were once highly prized by kings and princes in all parts of the civilized world. The exceedingly fine muslin cloth is, like the Dodo, a thing of the past; it is never made now. But fine and costly fabrics of various kinds are still turned out. Mr. W. H. Everett and Mr. E. Hoogewerf were deputed to examine this question, and they submitted to the authorities a joint report—I quote from this report—They say: "But if from any cause, the prospects of the industry were to improve, it could be very quickly expanded, as there is a large number of men, who are weavers by caste, and of whom many already possess a knowledge of the art. The decline appears to be due entirely to lack of organization of the industry; but this output could be increased, and in some respects improved by the introduction of improved methods and designs through the agency of a weaving school." In September last, a detailed scheme was made by the Principal of the Government Weaving Institute at Serampore, and it appears therefrom that the monthly recurring expenditure of a weaving school at Dacca is Rs. 397, and the initial expenditure Rs. 3,024, exclusive of the price of land and cost of buildings. This question was later on considered by the Municipal Board and the District Board of Dacca; the Municipal Board have agreed to provide suitable land for the purpose and the District Board to provide funds for the building, if the same be within their names. I am quite sure that the total cost of construction cannot exceed Rs. 15,000, and the District Board would be willing to contribute one-half of the cost of construction. I, therefore, beg to suggest that for a weaving school at Dacca Rs. 10,000 be budgeted for capital outlay, and Rs. 5,000 for recurring expenditure for maintenance of the school.

All these mean money; and unless strict economy is observed, the experiment about the Reforms is likely to suffer shipwreck.

In conclusion, I hope the Hon'ble the Finance Member will take all these into consideration, and recast his Budget so as to convince the people that the Reforms have given us some real power, and that they will result in ameliorating the condition of the people of the Presidency.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: In rising to discuss the Budget I confess at the outset that I share the public disappointment and surprise at the statement that has been presented to us. I am surprised and disappointed, not because there has been a huge deficit of two crores and eight lakhs of rupees, for it was more than anticipated, when the Government was not prepared to give up such costly projects as the partition of Midnapore and other new schemes of expenditure, but because the provisions that have been made are altogether unlike what we expected. Barring some external appearance, such as the reshuffling of heads and bicipital arrangement of figures due to the dual classification of reserved and transferred subjects, there is little or no evidence of "Reforms" or "changed angle of vision" in the Budget.

Before going however to examine the provisions in detail, I think we should congratulate the Hon'ble Member in charge of Finance for sparing the people from new taxation at present and not synchronising the inauguration of the Reforms with the imposition of new burdens. That he has been able to wriggle out of the present difficult situation, however artlessly it may be, is a matter of at least temporary relief to us.

Now to come to the details of the Reforms Budget, the first thing that attracts our notice is that the revenue sources being allocated and divided heads being done away with, we have lost even the moiety of receipts from Income-tax, amounting to two crores of rupees. As against that, although we will not have to share the receipts under the heads of Land Revenue and General Stamps, yet, after making the provincial contribution towards Central revenues, we have hardly got sufficient funds to meet the increased demands for recurring Provincial expenditure The result is that we have got to face a huge deficit every year if the Government of India do not "accord the special consideration suggested by the Joint Parliamentary Committee"

But if, after all, the Government of India do not come to our assistance and help us "to make up the leeway," as the Finance Member expects they will, then with "the only redeeming feature" gone, what will be our position and how we shall make our both ends meet, the Finance Member does not disclose As regards capital expenditure, the Member in charge of Finance boldly suggests that that should be met by loans, although he himself admits that "we cannot use our borrowing powers, until our normal recurring income is increased to a pitch commensurate with our necessary annual commitments." But if the Government of India turns a deaf ear to our appeal, how our sources of income can or will be so developed in the near future, the Finance Member does not say He simply hopes that, when such will be the case, we shall be in a position to carry out our loan projects with the resources of the province behind us.

At this stage the Council adjourned for 15 minutes.

After the adjournment.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: But what are these resources of the province? Have the Government been yet able to investigate and ascertain the possibilities of the development of our natural resources? No, and they are not likely to be able to do that even in the near future.

In April, 1919, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter moved with much force and foresight a resolution "that investigations be made during the year 1919-20 in order to ascertain the possibilities of increasing the income of the Government of Bengal by the development of the natural resources of the province." In moving the resolution, the Hon'ble Mr. Mitter said: "The last preliminary remark that I desire to make is that in

view of the necessities of education, sanitation and various other things which will be necessary in the near future for the Government to undertake and, in view also of the increased expenses which the Reforms are sure to entail, it is necessary to find out how far the income of the State can be increased without additional taxation. The question of additional taxation ought to come after we have exhausted these possibilities." But, while accepting the resolution, and though the Government repeatedly asserted that to a considerable extent they anticipated the desire for an inquiry, the resolution was practically burked. For if a Forest Utilization Officer was appointed before the date of the resolution he retired in May last, and thereafter Government did not find it possible to appoint another officer and no substantial work of development on the lines of the resolution could be done for "shortage of officers" and "lack of funds" This is, therefore, the way in which we have striven to increase our "credit" on the strength of which it is hoped to start loans

Turning to the various heads of expenditure in the Budget, I find more and overwhelming reasons for disappointment and surprise. There the provisions do not justify or fulfil the great expectations that were raised by the Reforms On the contrary, we notice that only those departments which were the recipients of favours before, still continue to be so, or are considered to be deserving of provision on a more or equally lavish scale; while those departments which were less favoured, and whose urgent demands and insistent claims were met with comparative indifference, have not even under the Reforms been justly provided for. While over and above the provisions in the last Budget, Rs 40,50,000, have been allotted for the Police, Rs. 5,00,000 or thereabout under the head Excise and about Rs. 10,00,000 more for General Administration, only an increased provision of Rs 4½ lakhs, an increase of Rs. 3¾ lakhs and that of Rs. 26,000 only have been deemed quite sufficient for the expansion and development of the most vitally important departments of Education, Public Health and Agriculture.

That less justice has been done to these "nation-building departments" after the inauguration of the new era, that they have not shared equally in the increase of expenditure, and far from being better provided have not received even fair and proportionate treatment, will appear conclusively from the following comparative statement:—

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Heads of Expenditure.	Budget Estimate for 1920-21	Percentage of the total expenditure estimated at Rs 9,32,40,000 for the year 1920-21	Budget Estimate for 1921-22.	Percentage of the total expenditure estimated at Rs. 11,80,13,000 for the year 1921-22.
		Rs.		Rs.	
6	Excise ...	13,06,000	1·40	17,82,000	1 51

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Heads of Expenditure.	Budget Estimate for 1920-21	Percentage of the total expenditure estimated at Rs 9,32,40,000 for the year 1920-21	Budget Estimate for 1921-22.	Percentage of the total expenditure estimated at Rs 11,86,13,000 for the year 1921-22
		Rs		Rs	
22	General Administration	27,92,000	2·96	37,19,000	3·15
26	Police ...	1,50,32,000	16·12	1,90,85,000	16·17
31	Education ...	1,21,42,000	13·02	1,26,07,000	10·68
33	Public Health ...	15,67,000	1·69	19,16,000	1·64
34	Agriculture ...	21,15,000	2·27	21,41,000	1·81

But that is not all. Not only Education, Sanitation and Agriculture have not been allowed to keep pace with the general increase in expenditure, but also, so far as we can trace, expenditure under the heads of Education and Agriculture has not been allowed to expand even at the past rate. Thus while actual expenditure under the head of Agriculture increased from Rs. 7,72,137 in 1912-13 to something like Rs. 17,75,000, the amount on the revised estimate for the year 1920-21, *i.e.*, at the rate of Rs. 10,00,000 in 8 years or Rs. 1,25,000 per year, the Budget estimate for the coming year shows no advance and proposes almost no addition to the amount budgeted in the previous year. The same is the case with Education, if we notice the pre-war rate of development and refuse to compare the present figure with that for the year 1914-15, since when the Government thought it proper to observe "enforced economy in this head" owing to the prevalence of war conditions. From the year 1911-12 onwards, there was a steady growth (however incommensurate with the needs of the province) in educational expenditure, until it was arrested in 1915-16. In the four years before war conditions came to prevail, there was on an average a steady annual increase of more than Rs. 7,00,000 per annum, till actual expenditure under this head rose to Rs. 92,07,022 or (13·7) per cent. of the total charges. Then a lustrum of set back followed no doubt; but when all the other heads, affected or unaffected by war considerations, have more than recovered their dues, education should and ought to have been allowed to do so. But such is the irredeemable destiny of education in this hapless country (where 92 per cent. of the people are still illiterate), that even with the advent of the Reforms the Budget figures do not contemplate long forward strides to recover the lost ground under this head.

Similarly ill-fated is the cause of sanitation also. You are aware that sanitation charges were not considered worthy of notice before,

and it was under the Government of India orders made a major head in 1917-18. We owe it to His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay's personal sympathy and sincere solicitude for the malaria stricken people of Bengal that of late there has been an honest endeavour to improve the sanitary condition of this province. In spite of the world-war the Budget provisions for sanitation went up from Rs. 6,00,000 in 1917-18 to near about Rs. 12,00,000 in 1918-19, and for 1919-20 even more than Rs. 18,50,000 could be provided out of the total charges estimated at Rs. 7,77,12,000 for that year. Thus from the time the paramount importance of sanitation was recognised, the Budget showed an increased provision of about Rs. 6,00,000 every year, even when the total charges were ranging between Rs. 7¼ to Rs. 7¾ crores.

If we now look to the details under those heads the general impression thus gained is not only amply verified, but the conclusions forced upon us on closer examination are indeed unfortunate. The Hon'ble the Finance Member mentioned in his speech the other day that "the proportion of provincial expenditure allocated to the reserved subjects is 65 per cent., while that allocated to the transferred subjects is 35 per cent." May be. But what do we see on examining the details under one of the above-mentioned major heads? We see that the needs of primary education in the mufassal have been put almost on a par with those of the St. Andrew's Home, Kalimpong, and the sum allotted for the revision of the pay of the teachers of the Victoria School and Dow Hill School, Kurseong, has been thought quite sufficient for the improvement of the pay of teachers in primary schools. I hope, Sir, that my remarks in this connection will not be misconstrued. I do not object to the aforesaid provisions for those European institutions, if the financial situation permits them. What I mean to say is that the provisions for improvement of primary education and for improving the pay of the teachers in the primary schools are highly incommensurate and betray either deliberate neglect or woeful inability to envisage the requirements of the case. Again the allocation of Rs. 1,00,000 for the extension of primary education is only a sorry apology for the loss of Rs. 5½ lakhs of recurring grant in that behalf by the Imperial Government.

But unfair treatment of, and inadequate provision for, those very departments, which are lauded up as highly important in connection with transference, are not the only objections. The stupendous loss that has been inflicted on these departments to meet the exigencies of the financial situation by the Finance Member "dipping deep into the provincial balance" to avoid the appearance of bankruptcy, can only be realised if we try to understand for a moment of what the last closing balance was constituted. The Hon'ble Mr. Kerr himself admitted in his speech that "these balances represent in part doles, which were given to us by the Government of India in previous years to meet expenditure on

specified objects, and partly the accumulation of provincial revenues during the war on account of the restrictions on expenditure which prevailed during the war." But what were the specified objects the Hon'ble Member for Finance did not explain. However, we can look to his Hon'ble colleague's statement in the previous year and try to find them out. Sir Henry Wheeler, in the concluding portion of his prefatory memorandum, said: "The closing balance," *i.e.*, for the year 1920-21, "has been placed at Rs. 3,43,42,000. Of this Rs. 1,69,32,000 represents the unspent balances of Imperial recurring and non-recurring grants, or sums which are earmarked for specified purposes as detailed:—

		Rs.
Balance of Imperial grants for Education ...	...	98,33,000
Balance of Imperial grants for agricultural education	...	69,000
Balance of Imperial grants for Sanitation ...	...	60,51,000
Ranchi Lunatic Asylum	...	9,99,000
Total	...	1,69,32,000"

Thus it will be seen that of Rs. 2,58,000, representing the opening balance, close upon Rs. 1½ crores represent the grants for Education, Agriculture and Sanitation. Yet this is not all. The opening balance further includes, as the Hon'ble Finance Member has said, "savings during the war." But how were these savings effected? Were they effected by curtailing expenditure under Police and such other heads? Certainly not, but by observing the strictest possible economy in and underfeeding the very departments of Education, Sanitation and Agriculture. One who simply takes a cursory view of the column showing variation between Budget estimates and revised estimates or actuals will almost invariably find the figures against those important heads preceded by a minus sign. Thus the amount that has been drawn and the figures that have been deleted from the opening balance represent the extent to which Education, Sanitation and Agriculture have been sacrificed, not only for the present but presumably for all time to come.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: I hope you will permit me to offer my congratulations to the Finance Member for the skill and ingenuity which he has displayed in framing the Budget. At the same time the fact cannot be ignored that we have been faced with a deficit of about Rs. 2,08,00,000. I offer my congratulations to him for the very simple reason that taxation has been obviated. My friend, Mr. D. C. Ghose, has shared the optimism of the Finance Member regarding the future. I regret I cannot share that view. The fact cannot be overlooked that, unless and until the Government of India come to our rescue with substantial grants, probably the same situation will repeat itself. My friend, Mr. D. C. Ghose, as well as Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri, have laid considerable stress upon one aspect of the Budget, and that is this: that

sufficient details have not been given to show as to how the "non-voted" items have been arrived at. In the absence of these details it is quite natural that there should be grave apprehension in the minds of the members of this Council and of the public, having regard to the fact that the Finance Member has said that all these non-voted items come within the purview of clause (*iii*) of sub-section 3 of section 72D of the Government of India Act.

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: I did not say that all came under that. What I said was that all came within the purview of the whole of the sub-clause and not a particular part of the sub-clause.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: The Finance Member has explained his position and I think he will do so more fully and clearly in the course of his speech at the proper time. A good deal has been said by the previous speakers about the injustice the palpable injustice—which has been done to our Ministers. My friend, Mr Ghose, has said that the Finance Member deserves our sympathy In my view, if any one deserves sympathy, it is our Ministers, more than the Finance Member If we turn our eyes to the items for new schemes, what do we find? We find that a grant of Rs. 1,04,000 only has been made for primary education. If I raise this point, probably the answer would be that we are ignoring the permanent grants-in-aid provided for in the Budget elsewhere, amounting to about Rs. 24,50,000 I am referring to this item of Rs. 1,04,000 merely by way of contrast. If you will turn your eyes over the Budget you will find that huge grants have been made to Forest and Police. What is the grant to Public Health? It is only Rs. 3,29,000. I put it to the House: Is that sufficient having regard to the fact—the painful fact—that year after year in Bengal about one million of men are laying down their lives owing to fever and malaria? During the five years the war lasted in Europe the total number of men who were killed amounted to two millions only so far as England was concerned. During that period Bengal alone lost about five millions owing to fever and malaria, and what is the grant for the prevention of malaria? We are staggered to find that it is only Rs. 7,000 for malaria research in Eastern Bengal. In my humble opinion, and I believe I am voicing the feeling of the country, I may say at once that this grant is absolutely inadequate The Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea the other day said with some amount of emphasis and earnestness: "Give me the money and I will drive malaria out of the country in one day." I say, there was the money available to the Government: why was it that the money was not placed into the hands of the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea to drive malaria out of the country? The question might arise, what money was it that I was referring to? I am referring to that item of a loan of Rs. 86,00,000, which the Government have thought fit to redeem What was the occasion for redeeming that loan at this

time when Bengal has to face a deficit—a heavy deficit. Every business man as is well known thinks of redeeming his loans not in years of tightness, but in years of prosperity. But our Government took a different view. Then looking at page 27 of the Budget, you will find that these loans were carrying only a rate of interest ranging between 3½ and 5½ per cent. We find from the Budget that we are borrowing Rs. 20,00,000 this year. Can we borrow the money at less than 6 per cent? If we are put in this position, what is the urgency for redeeming those loans which we have got at so easy terms? This money could have been utilised for framing important schemes which needed the attention—I should say the pressing attention—of the Government.

Then there is another fact to which I desire to invite the attention of this Council. You will find that Rs. 1,90,000 has been provided for water-supply; and water-supply where? Water-supply in the towns, where one does not feel the necessity of drinking water just so much as poor villagers do in the dry season? I know the state of things which prevails in the villages, coming as I do from a village in the district of Dacca. We are confronted with the fact that not a single pice has been provided for drinking water in the mufassal, where the requirement is so pressing—the necessity so acute.

Then we find that for mufassal dispensaries a magnificent sum of Rs. 15,000 has been provided. We were all present when a lively debate took place in this Council Chamber a few days ago over that resolution of Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder Ghose, which was carried in spite of its hostile reception at the hands of the Minister, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea. We had anticipated, as we had the right to do so, that a liberal provision would be made in this respect in this year's Budget, but for furniture for nurses' quarters we find a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been provided. I do not for one moment say or suggest that I do grudge this item of expenditure for the nurses, but what I do say is this, that a more liberal provision ought to have been made for mufassal dispensaries.

One word more and I have done. I have gone through the Budget with some amount of care, and there is one item which I have not been able to understand, and I shall be glad if the Minister or the Member in charge will be pleased to explain that item. At page 144 of the details we find an item of Miscellaneous and Unforeseen charges—Rs. 6,30,000. In the footnote we find Reserve—Rs. 2,05,000, His Excellency's petty grant—Rs. 40,000; Other Miscellaneous—Rs. 10,000, and then there is another item of Rs. 3,00,000 for addition to the Contract contingencies. We are referred to the next page for details and what are the details given there? The position is just the same—Total Miscellaneous and Unforeseen charges—Rs. 6,30,000. Surely these are not the details—a repetition of what appears on the previous page. I hope the Hon'ble the Finance Member will throw some light upon this particular item.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: While I read the Budget the one thing which I tried my best to find out was this—what was the principle which was followed by Government in distributing the revenue between the two sides of the Government, and the next thing which I also tried my best to find out was what was the principle on which the different amounts had been classified as voted and non-voted. So far as the latter question is concerned, I looked into the sections of the Act and I found that under section 72, clause (D), certain amounts would be spent, irrespective of the question whether the Council would vote for them or not. Now, Sir, I also read the next sub-clause, and I found that whether a particular subject would come under that clause or not would be decided by the Governor, and the decision of His Excellency would be final. That of course sets at rest the question as to what principle was followed in this matter. Next, coming to the question as to what principle had been followed by the Government in dividing the revenue between the two sides of Government, I tried my best to find out the history of this subject, and at last I found it in the report of the Joint Committee. The principle which the Committee laid down was this:—

> The Committee have given much attention to the difficult question of the principle on which the provincial revenues and balances should be distributed between the two sides of the provincial Governments. They are confident that the problem can readily be solved by the simple process of common-sense and reasonable give-and-take, but they are aware that this question might, in certain circumstances, become the cause of much friction in the provincial Government, and they are of opinion that the rules governing the allocation of these revenues and balances should be framed so as to make the existence of such friction impossible. They advise that, if the Governor, in the course of preparing either his first or any subsequent Budget, finds that there is likely to be a serious or protracted difference of opinion between the Executive Council and his Ministers on this subject, he should be empowered at once to make an allocation of revenue and balances between the reserved and transferred subjects, which should continue for at least the whole life of the existing Legislative Council. The Committee do not endorse the suggestion that certain sources of revenue should be allocated in the proportion of two thirds to reserved and one third to transferred subjects, and similarly a proportion, though not necessarily the same fraction, of the balances.

If this is the principle which has been followed, Sir, in distributing the revenue between the two sides of the Government, I must say that the principle has not been correctly followed. The question is whether there had been really what is called "give-and-take." There cannot be the slightest doubt that the representatives of the people who assemble here have given clearly, cogently, distinctly and specifically the Government to understand that the questions of education and sanitation are of vital importance to the people. When we look to the report of the said Joint Committee, we also find that the Cabinet have been constituted under the present Act with the avowed object that the Ministers would contribute their knowledge of the people's wishes and susceptibilities, and the Members of the Executive Council their administrative experience to the joint wisdom of the Government.

Therefore, I think that our Ministers, who are elected members of the Council and who must be certainly aware of the desires of the people of the country when they fought for their own money, must have impressed the necessity of those things upon the Governor and the Members of the Executive Council. If they did so, and if the principle was followed, namely give-and-take, then Government must have tried to reduce the expenditure on the reserved subjects as far as possible, and, in order to meet the wishes of the people, Government must have tried to increase the expenditure on the transferred subjects as far as possible. Has this principle been strictly followed? Sir, when I read the report I found that the Joint Committee expressly stated in their report—"They have accepted the recommendations of the Functions Committee, that, subject to certain reservations about the Universities, the responsibility for the whole field of education in each province should be transferred to Ministers. They attach much importance, however, to the educational advancement of the depressed and backward classes, and they propose that the subject will receive special attention from the Ministers." I have read the Budget very carefully, and I have failed to find out where any special provision has been made for these depressed and backward classes. If we want to make the Reforms a success, it cannot be gainsaid that the principles of self-government must be clearly understood by the people, who want to exercise their franchise, and in order that the people may be able to exercise their franchise properly, the one thing that is essential is that they must have primary education. They must have at least some sort of education which will enable them to realise their responsibility when they want to send members as representatives to this Council. Therefore, Sir, when the Joint Parliamentary Committee recommended that special attention must be devoted to this particular subject, which is ultimately responsible for really building the nation as a whole, I think that adequate provision should have been made in the Budget for this particular subject.

Then I find one big expenditure of about Rs. 70,00,000 in the current year for the Grand Trunk Canal. I must confess that I am a new member of this Council, and I do not know what were the necessities for this Grand Trunk Canal, but I must say that so far as I know, the necessity for spending this heavy amount, namely, Rs. 70,00,000, for the Grand Trunk Canal at least in the year 1921-22 is not so pressing as the necessities for education and sanitation are. At least we can defer this project for some years more. Then, Sir, I have also found a comparatively large amount—I say "comparatively" in view of the amount that is going to be spent for education and sanitation and dispensaries—is going to be spent for establishing a department of Paper-Books in the High Court. Sir, most of my friends in this Council must be aware that there was recently a meeting of the lawyers in Calcutta who unanimously passed a resolution, giving out clearly and cogently

that there was no necessity for such a costly establishment, and that the present system would fare well. In view of the fact that lawyers can speak on the subject with confidence—I say the lawyers really voice the sentiments of the people when they say that that is not at present necessary—I think, Sir, that this expenditure should not be allowed at the present stage.

Then as regards the question of loans, viz., whether the loans should be paid off this very year, I am not unmindful of the report of the Financial Relations Committee, where it is stated that the Governments of Bengal, the Punjab, the Central Provinces and Assam signified their willingness to take over the whole of their respective loans from April 1921, and we recommend that it should be arranged for them to do so. In some cases it was stipulated that the provincial revenue or any part of its balances, including the earmarked portion, could be used for the purpose. Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri and another speaker stated that Government were not justified in using this earmarked portion. It may be that the Government were justified in view of the statement, in the report in using this earmarked portion as a portion of revenue, but at the same time when we assume that the principle which was followed was the principle of giving and taking, certainly, Sir, the subjects for which these particular heads of money were earmarked should have been given special attention. Then as regards this question of loans, though of course the Government of Bengal signified their willingness that they should take over the whole of their respective loans on the 1st April, 1921, still, in view of the fact that the present financial condition of this province is not on a very good basis, there would be no harm if we go on paying this amount gradually.

As regards the question of increasing the judicial staff, I find 20 munsifs and 3 subordinate judges are going to be appointed because there is an increase in the judicial work. Now, Sir, I cannot claim experience of the quantity of the judicial work in the whole province, but so far as I know, instead of increasing, the judicial work is decreasing, and this is the proper time when there should not be any increase in the number of judicial officers. I know some instances in which the judicial officers have very little work—practically no work—for the whole of the day, and it would be the best arrangement if those munsifs, who have not got sufficient work, could be transferred to places where the work is heavy. There is absolutely no justification, at least so far as the present year is concerned, to increase the number of those munsifs and subordinate judges.

Then as regards the question of primary education, I, Sir, on behalf of my community, feel it my special duty to bring it to the notice of the members of this Council that in order to enable the Muhammadans to make the Reforms a success, in order to enable the Muhammadans to understand their own position with reference to their Hindu brethren,

it is essentially necessary that they should be educated, and educated to a reasonable standard in comparison with their enlightened Hindu brethren. Therefore I think the Minister of Education would see his way, specially so far as the Muhammadan community is concerned, to find out some money at least for the advancement of Muhammadan education. I am not unmindful of the fact that a certain amount of money will be spent on the Dacca University, and that the Dacca University may benefit the Muhammadan community to a certain extent in preference to the other community; but at the same time that would not help the cause of Muhammadan education in general. If we are to consider the question of Muhammadan education for the whole province, it is essentially necessary that at least some portion of the money should be specially devoted to the cause of Muhammadan education, and specially primary education.

That is all that I have got to say in this matter.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P.M. on Tuesday, the 1st March, 1921, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 1st March, 1921, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 98 nominated and elected members.

The Budget, 1921-22.

The discussion on the Budget was resumed.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: In noticing the good work done by Mr. Donald as Financial Secretary, Sir Henry Wheeler observed on the 3rd April, 1919: "I have often told him that his fault lay in over-estimating his expenditure and under-estimating his revenue, but from the point of view of the financial resources of the province, these qualities have been instrumental in building up the large balances which we now possess and which we hope will be spent with usefulness in the approaching years." With reference to that statement last year I made two suggestions. I may be permitted to refer to that portion of my observations: "The Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler very justly noticed in conclusion of his Budget speech last year that this available free balance has in fact been built up by the over-cautiousness of the department in preparing the Budget estimates during the last several years. If this fortune really belongs to us, and if it was accumulated through the economical management of the provincial revenues for several years, I fail to understand why this heavy sum should still be allowed to remain idle wherever it may be. We may not be allowed to spend it without special sanction, but there is no reason why it should not be deposited in a bank at least to carry interest.

I may be permitted to notice in connection with the Budget that the time has really come when some bold and courageous step should be taken for the relief of the people of Bengal. We are hard pressed on all sides. Prices of every necessary article of life have gone up abnormally high. The country is groaning under the oppression of the middleman and the money-lender on one side and on the other the profiteering and the privileged classes grown up under the peculiar circumstances of the great European war. If some means could be devised for being relieved from the clutches and grips of these persons, most of the difficulties would be removed. What has been done at

Naogaon for the *ganja* cultivators can, with great advantage, be done in other directions also, so far as cultivators are concerned. New industries should be started and the vast resources of the country should be developed and fully utilised for directly benefiting the country. The purchasing power of silver has increased and the exchange rate is very favourable for larger imports. It is high time that the large free balance referred to before should be fully utilised and any more useful purpose cannot be conceived for its further detention and development."

With reference to one of my requests, what ungenerous reply was given has already been submitted before this Council by my friend, Sir Asutosh. With reference to another, however, I see that after a year it has been thought proper to pay off the heavy debts due to the Government of India. Sir Ashutosh, of course, objected to the payment of this heavy debt at once. He suggested that steps should be taken to pay off this heavy debt by instalments, but I disagree with him. The course adopted at least ensures the retention of this heavy sum for carrying on the loan transactions with public bodies under us, we now being the sole masters of this little fortune, and it will save us by way of interest over Rs. 5 lakhs a year. There is another advantage also, it may not be easy for the department to fritter away the amount, if I may be permitted to say so, for the ordinary purposes of the administration. I refer to the statement of Sir Henry Wheeler simply to show how Sir Henry Wheeler objected to its utilisation for some purpose which would benefit the country, and the poorer classes specially, and how he consents this year to the utilisation of the full amount for the ordinary purposes of administration. It has been practically admitted by the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr that nearly Rs. 1½ crores would be required for the ordinary purposes of administration. It is not a question for a year only. We may tide over the difficulties for the present, but what shall we do next year? These grants were not paper transactions simply, but these were transferred to us along of course with the provincial liabilities. They were practically placed at our disposal. There was only one restriction to its utilisation, namely, that without the special sanction of Government it could not be utilised. Under the Devolution Rules that restriction is now withdrawn, but the character of the grant is not changed. As regards the utilisation of the amount for paying off our debts to the Government of India may I ask Sir, why it could not be done earlier? If it can be done in April, 1921, why could it not be done in April, 1920, when I raised the question? For several years at least, I can safely assert, since the year 1912-13—we have been paying a heavy interest annually, amounting nearly to Rs. 5 lakhs, to the Government of India, though to our credit there was a heavy sum with them. If there were proper representations I think the Government of India would surely have allowed us to be relieved of this heavy liability year after year. I am glad, however, that under the able guidance of the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr this course has now been adopted.

In turning to the next year's Budget, we find that we are really con fronted with a deficit Budget for over Rs. 2 crores A few days ag I had a talk with my esteemed friend, Sir Surendra Nath. He told m that there would be no deficit, but, on the contrary, there would prob ably be a surplus of Rs. 40 lakhs. I asked him wherefrom the mone would come, and how it could be secured and how it could be done I had a lurking suspicion that our little fund of savings of the pas years would be gone. He told me that I could not understand th intricacies of the Budget, and therefore I was incapable of realising th situation I then rubbed my eyes to see whether I was dreaming o I was awake I now see that I am right and it is a deficit Budget, an we must have to face it not for this year only but for years to come. W have to find money either by raising money by fresh taxation or b securing help from the Central Government.

The Meston Committee's recommendations were made probabl without taking into consideration the heavy liability which we wi have to incur on account of the revision of the pay and allowances o the services. I think we should see who is responsible for this deficit whether this Council or any unfavourable event. To my mind th Government is responsible more or less for it Increment of allowance and pay has been granted to the Indian Civil Service and to th members of other high salaried services. Necessarily the demand o clamour for an immediate and favourable consideration of their pros pects has been often raised by low salaried officers of the ministeria and other departments.

In this Budget we observe that nearly Rs. ¾ crore is provided fo the reorganisation of the public services, and I believe Rs. 45 lakhs i provided for the ministerial departments.

Several high salaried posts have already been created, and are goin to be created, without taking into consideration their evil con sequences. When with such a sympathetic ruler like Lord Ronaldsha at the head of the Government of Bengal, and a nation-builder like Si Surendra Nath, a devoted worker and defender of the public cause, an with a deficit Budget staring us in the face, such a thing has happened I think a strong case could be made out for our appealing to th Central Government for immediate attention. Owing to the Reform Scheme people hoped that the new Government would be engaged i many nation-building projects and in the work of solving the grea problems of the day and grant immediate relief to the cultivatin classes who form the nationality of Bengal. But we see no big schem before us. As Colonel Pugh pertinently remarked, there is no work o nation-building in the Budget. Then as to the earmarked grants—

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda) Your time is up, but I will give you three minutes more.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I think we cannot, indeed should not, touch them now. I appeal to the Government and to the Council, through you, Sir, that we should retain it for some useful purpose, for the grants were received from the Government of India for some specific purposes, and it comes under clause (E) of rule 14. So to my mind we are bound to spend it on some special purpose.

My suggestion therefore is—let the ordinary work of administration go on and keep the several proposals for capital and recurring expenditure in abeyance. Let us see the result of our representations to the Government of India. If they turn a deaf ear to our appeal, and we find that fresh taxation is inevitable, let us face the situation bravely and manfully.

This Council was not slow—rather it took the first opportunity to raise protests against the extravagant proposals made. If we are to do anything, if we are to raise a new tax, we should see what retrenchment can be made in our annual expenditure. A committee should be appointed for that purpose and also a deputation should be sent to fight out our cause for the increase of the grant. These things ought to be done, and I suggest again for the present that proposals involving large expenditure be in abeyance. Simply we should pass the Budget to let the work of administration go on. If we get any help from the Government of India, we should then see what more can be done.

As regards the Grand Trunk Canal project, I think it was not considered in this Council. I understand the estimate was made some time ago, and it requires revision, and, if we are to borrow heavy sums of money for the same, I think we must first of all be convinced of the reasonableness of the undertaking. There are many things, but unfortunately the time-limit precludes my occupying more time of the Council.

Regarding several other proposals for reorganisation, I think a temporary allowance, as has been proposed in the case of the Subordinate Educational Service officers, might do. A provision of Rs. 17 lakhs was recommended, but only Rs. 3½ lakhs has been provided. Similar arrangements should be made for the other departments, and we should wait to see what amount of funds can be secured for them.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I feel not a little embarrassed in making my comments on the Budget, having regard to the fact that so many speakers have already done so. Many members no doubt will be pleased if my comments are brief, and I will try to be as brief as I possibly can. The Budget had been placed in our hands on Monday last, so we had scarcely six days' time to study the two volumes that were presented to us. It took no less than three months to prepare and consider all the details of the Budget. The Members of the Executive Council and other Government officers had ample time to study it, but it is rather too much to expect that the non-official members of this Council

should digest the mass of figures supplied in those two volumes and understand all the intricacies of the Budget and the voted and non-voted items within the small space of six days. It requires something superhuman to master all the intricacies in such a short time. Personally, I think it would be well if our representatives in the Cabinet of Bengal, I mean the Ministers, called some of us in groups to their office, took us into their confidence (the Official Secrets Act would be no bar to their doing so) and explained the policy they intended to follow regarding the insertion of the various items in the Budget. If they had a free, full and frank discussion with the people, it would have considerably lightened their labours and at the same time enabled us to understand the Budget much more fully than at present we are in a position to do. It would have avoided the unnecessary infliction of ill-informed and ill-digested speeches upon the Council, to which the official Members will have to reply. With these preliminary remarks, and without indulging in any further dialectic exercise, I come to the figures. It has been stated that I had not the pleasure of listening to all the speeches that were delivered yesterday, but, as far as I have been able to gather, some of the speakers did not touch the figures on which I wish to elicit some information. The two outstanding figures in the Budget which are discouraging are these—a deficit of Rs. 2,08,00,000 and the appropriation from the balance of Rs. 3,13,00,000 to make up the deficit. Now, Sir, this balance of Rs. 3,13,00,000 really amounts to Rs. 2,56,00,000, if we omit the Rs. 86,00,000 we have to return to the Government of India. I regret very much that the Bengal Government have decided to return this sum of Rs. 86,00,000 this year. Even an ordinary creditor would have mercy upon his debtor. I think that it would be judicious, kind and thoughtful on the part of the Imperial Government, if they had enabled the Bengal Government to repay this sum in instalments.

As regards the balance, of course, I do not object to the appropriation from the balance on the ground that no balance should be appropriated. I do object to the manner and method in which this appropriation has been made. I find that of the total sum of Rs. 2,08,00,000—the sum equivalent to our deficit—which it is proposed to draw from the provincial balance, only Rs. 67,35,000 will be available for the initiation of new schemes, while the lion's share of Rs. 1,40,00,000 will be swallowed up by ordinary expenditure on administration. Sir, this is certainly a disappointing feature in the Budget, and I do not know how it will be possible to meet the requirements of the administration in future years. Evidently, the accumulated balances are accidental savings effected by war stringencies mostly from Imperial grants originally expressly intended for such beneficent schemes of reform as education, sanitation, public health, agriculture, etc. Now the Government, however, propose to trench upon the unutilised funds which ought to be devoted to the promotion of the specific purposes for which they were earmarked. Excess of expenditure over revenue should not always

scare us nor should it raise any unnecessary alarm. In state economics it is general politics to spend whatever you manage to get, though abnormal conditions now and then may force up the pace of all expenditure rather unusually over that of revenue, but a deficit, when it threatens to become chronic, is a standing menace to the solvency of the State, and in Bengal we are confronted with that peril. In this year, I find there is a deficit of Rs. 75,00,000; in the next year's Budget the deficit mounts up to Rs. 2,08,00,000, and what the future deficit would be I almost shudder to contemplate. One main cause of this recurring deficit has originated from the financial readjustment of the Government of India. We have to contribute Rs. 63,00,000 as our tribute to the Government of India; that is a permanent tribute we have to pay to the coffers of the Government of India unless some readjustments are made. The balances of this year are indeed a windfall, because they may not occur every year. They will disappear and, as far as I understand, we must have at least Rs. 30,00,000 or Rs. 40,00,000 as our closing balance. There is no chance of appropriation next year from the closing balance. Now what are we to do?

There are three courses open to us:—

(1) Fresh taxation. I do not think the popular Ministers would dare to face such a contingency.

(2) The diversion of the proceeds of the jute export only to the provincial revenues and a more equitable readjustment of our financial arrangement with the Central Government. It has been dwelt upon so often and so fully, that I do not want to dwell upon it again.

(3) Adoption of a judicious loan policy, as recommended by the Finance Member in his opening speech. Let us examine that loan policy. Let us consider for a moment the recommendation in its practical bearing. The closing balance for the next year is estimated to be about Rs. 52,36,000.

Of the proposed expenditure of Rs. 2,08,31,000 from the balances of the current year to meet the deficit during the next year, it is calculated that only Rs. 94,00,000 can fairly be treated as capital expenditure which can be put on to a loan.

It is true that the Reforms have endowed us with the power of independent borrowing on our own account; and we must exercise this power, though with due circumspection and prudence. Even assuming that we do take the risk in our hands and float loans to finance our capital expenditure of Rs. 94,00,000, how can we find funds for our non-capital expenditure, which still shows a deficit of more than a crore of rupees; and the closing balances will shrink into something like half a crore next year, an amount much less than half the deficit in non-capital expenditure. Hence, unless the revenue increases magically to an undreamt-of

figure, a chronic deficit must have to be faced in the future, even in province of non-capital expenditure, which cannot be raised by loan.

The next point is about loans. We have not got any figures statement to show how the loans are to be financed. It is assumed th if we raise a loan, it must be repaid from the revenue, and the loan mu be raised on productive works. We have no information on this subject at least we have not understood the Finance Minister to say what ar the works in respect of which he wants to raise a loan, and what retur he expects to get from the works to be carried out of borrowed capital There is an expenditure of Rs. 1,86,00,000; assuming that we float a loan next year, how much does he expect to borrow and thereby set free revenue for ordinary expenditure? How much does he expect to ge back for payment of interest and sinking fund? This information wil be very interesting to the House.

Again, we have seen in the next year's Budget how sadly we have been disappointed in the appropriation of the sums for the transferred departments, which should have been more liberally financed and backed up. We find that the proportion is 65 per cent. and 35 per cent. Sixty-five per cent of the expenditure is to be incurred in respect of reserved subjects, and 35 per cent. for the transferred On what basis this percentage has been arrived at we are at a loss to understand. I hope we shal get more information on this point. It cannot be denied, to quote the happy expression of Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, that the nation-building activities of the State will be much restricted, for we find that the allotments made in respect of education, sanitation, public health, agriculture, industries, etc., are very disappointing. Here a fragment, there a fragment, has been allotted We do not know how it is possible for our popular Ministers to launch into schemes of development of the country I think we ought to have some information on this point as well as from the Hon'ble Ministers.

It is also to be noted, although I have not got the actual figures before me, that the bulk of the increased expenditure is absorbed by the provisions for the improvement of the pay and prospects of the superior and subordinate establishments. I do not deny the necessity of improving the pay and prospects of these services, but at the same time we must also see how much of the revenue is swallowed up by increased salary or creation of new posts.

Turning to education, we find that a sum of Rs. 94,000 will have to be found for leave allowances for educational officers in England, and another Rs 94,000 somewhere in the Budget for leave allowances of officers of the Indian Medical Service. A paltry provision of Rs. 40,000 has been made for the increase of the pay of teachers in primary schools over and above the sum of Rs. 1,00,000 for the improvement of primary education in the mufassal—a provision which is likely to be interpreted as a mere mockery in comparison with the magnitude of the demand of 46,240 schools in Bengal.

The speaker, having reached the time-limit, was allowed a few minutes more to conclude his speech.)

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I know that I have exceeded the time-limit, and do not wish to encroach on the time of the Council, but I just wish to say a few words in conclusion. There is a sense of general disappointment with the Budget which has been presented to us, and I hope the Ministers will take us into their confidence and give us some more information to enable us to hope that the Reforms, which are a free gift from a freedom-loving nation, will be a reality and not a mockery.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I have your high authority that these are the days for general discussion, and I intend to carry out your orders on the subject, and I therefore do not like to enter on any consideration of any particular item of the Budget, but I want to say something on the principle, that is on the basic and central principle of this Budget and the Budget alone.

Sir, I am one of those who are in favour of conventions or platitudes. The only justification I have to stand here on behalf of my countrymen, is to speak out the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, on the subject as the country feels it. With regard to that, I may tell you that on a persual of the Budget, the feeling that was uppermost in my mind was one of gross disappointment and unrelieved gloom and I found no silver lining to the dark clouds. It is a Budget which no nation aspiring to self-government can possibly accept. It is an insult to ask a nation which is aspiring for self-government, to accept a Budget of this description: and I hope I shall be able to bring out every little point in my speech, as I know it from the facts given in this Budget. Sir, what the country wants to know is, what have the new Reforms done for them? That is the great thing that the country wants to know; and what is the answer? So far as the Budget is concerned, and this is really an abstract of the whole situation, the Reforms have done absolutely nothing. I draw your attention, Sir, to the fact that in reading this Budget I find in every page of it, in every line of it, the same old autocratic policy, no change absolutely therein. I find further the same old, old motto which is "children of the soil last and the least." If this is Reform, we had better have none of it.

I find, Sir, the same old enemies peeping through every line of the Budget, grinning at us and mocking us for our foolish hopes and aspirations based on the new Reforms. These are our old enemies, and, one by one, I shall give their names and you will be able to know them. They are very old enemies and very well-known.

The first and foremost enemy of us, the children of the soil, is the inequitable and the unfair adjustment of public revenues between sub-

jects involved under the new nomenclature, transferred and reserved subjects, 35 per cent. as against 65 per cent. Is this fairness, is this justice, is this the inauguration of the new era which we have been asked to welcome from the highest to the lowest? Is this what we are asked to accept with a whole-hearted co-operation; to accept and say, we have got the gracious boon from a gracious Sovereign? Why show this difference? Why should the transferred subjects have 35 per cent. and why should the other subjects, the reserved subjects, have 65 per cent? I am sure I do not know the answer; the Hon'ble Member must explain this to us. The answer is no other than this—it may be covered in any manner of verbal foliage, but you will find if you reduce it to the barest skeleton, that it is this—"tradition." To this answer of "tradition" my reply is "*Kismet* and oh! the new Reforms."

Then, I come to our next enemy, equally old and equally well known, and that is—the improper and unjust division of public revenues among the different communities; and in this connection, I would ask you, Sir, I will draw attention to a table which I have prepared, and which will show at a glance how things are being managed and done.

European	Rs.	Indian	Rs.
(1) Grant in aid additional to Kalimpong alone ...	80,000	Increased grant in aid to schools throughout Bengal	1,00,000
(2) Additional building grant to European schools ...	50,000	Additional building grant to Indian schools all over ..	1,00,000
(3) Additional salary grant in aid—		Additional salary grant to teachers in primary schools throughout Bengal, numbering about 44,000 ...	40,000
Calcutta Free School ...	9,000		
Victoria and Dow Hill Schools ...	40,000		
For three schools ...	49,000		

So you find the same old enemy pursuing us even here. This is the new Reform which has been ushered in with a considerable amount of fanfare, and which was here so elaborately inaugurated with pomp and pageantry by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught.

Then we come to the third old enemy—the irritating differences which have been not only maintained, but have been emphasised and accentuated. The evidence is first, on the one hand,—Furniture for European nurses of the Medical College, Rs. 10,000. I do not grudge it, but look to the other—Dispensaries in the whole of Bengal, not less than 765, the splendid sum of Rs. 15,000, working out at Rs. 2 each per month! Then married European sergeants' quarters: for land only—Rs. 2,83,000. We do not know if we shall be asked to vote for another Rs. 10,00,000 next year for this. On the other hand, for the

Indians—Primary education for the whole of this country—the magnificent grant of Rs. 1,00,000

The same old and irritating distinctions!

Then, Sir, we come to the fourth of our old enemies, and what is that? That friend which has been troubling us for so many years, and is still peeping through in spite of the new Reforms, and what is that? It is the same callous indifference of the Government to the real interests of the people, in whose charge they are put there by Providence in matters of vital importance. These are mainly, first of all, "Suffering and Sanitation" What has been done in these matters? As regards these, we do not find mention of a single scheme of anything like anti-malarial operations; nothing at all Great were our expectations that these things would be taken up when the new Reforms came into inception On the contrary, we find only Rs 15,000 given to all the dispensaries—a princely gift for the suffering humanity of this country and for a people who are dying almost daily from malaria! Thus are we encouraged in active practical work! I am one of those who in a humble way are carrying on a school in my own native village The students' attendance has gone down to nothing, and this is due to deaths from malaria. Formerly this village, in the district of Hooghly, was, according to Dr Bentley, one of the healthiest; now malaria has become so very rampant in that very village that the present number of boys on the school rolls is only 35, my heart trembles, I am most disappointed, and I am thinking of giving up the work What is being given for all this only Rs 15,000 for the whole of Bengal!

Then comes in "Ignorance and Primary Education" What is the kindness and consideration of the Government in this matter? You will find on page 58 of the Budget, it is a generous grant of Rs 1,00,000 for the whole of Bengal, about 44,000 schools! This for schools, for primary education! In a worse position than even jails where the grant is Rs 1,28,000. Is primary education a matter which has got to take a place even below jails? Is it not the soundest principle that "you open a school and close a jail"? Jails will thrive and primary schools will dwindle to nothing for want of funds, and this is the new Reforms

Then, Sir, I come to the last item, viz., Agricultural and Vocational education, which my great and esteemed *guru* called one of the most important "nation-building" departments With regard to agriculture what is the additional expenditure? Rs. 5,000 for five farms! What a wonderful gift, Rs 5,000 for five farms! This is an insult, not only cruelty but an insult to us, that in a country like this we should get Rs. 5,000 for five farms! What else Rs. 7,000 for the purchase of bullocks! Beautiful! Then I may ask the House to consider what a splendid investment this must be, and how the poor people of Bengal will derive the benefits thereof.

As regards vocational education, you find in the civil estimates or page 122, that last year (1920-21) in the Industries Department, the Budget allotment was Rs. 1,92,000. This year the estimate i Rs. 8,56,000. Nobody would have been more glad than myself and my countrymen to welcome this increase, if we found that there was th slightest possibility of its being spent for educational purposes.

Then you will find that of this only Rs. 2,36,000 goes to schools an Rs. 4,52,000 to the increase of the Director's establishment. Is not thi one of our oldest enemies? Did not I begin my career in this Counc by pointing out that the hand of the nurse would absorb all the oint ment and leave very little for the painful parts of the poor patient?

(The speaker, having reached the time-limit, was allowed 3 minute more to continue and finish the remainder of his speech.)

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: Then comes the last bu not the least the greatest of our enemies in that line; I mean figur tively it is the same old friend, the same old thing—the old partiality o the Government for the police and their love of repression. It is str visible in every page of this new Budget of this new era, of this ne Reform. I will give you a table which will show you the increase i the light of intelligence.

In 1910-11 the total expenditure was about Rs. 90 lakhs; five year later, in 1915-16, it was Rs. 1,09,00,000, next year, in 1916-17, it wa Rs. 1,16,00,000, *i.e.*, Rs. 7 lakhs more, in 1917-18, Rs. 1,26,00,000 *i.e.*, Rs. 10 lakhs more; in 1918-19, Rs. 1,32,00,000, *i.e.*, Rs. 6 lakl more; in 1919-20, Rs. 1,43,00,000, *i.e.*, Rs. 11 lakhs more, in 1920-2 it was Rs. 1,63,00,000, *i.e.*, Rs. 20 lakhs more; and in the next year Budget Rs. 1,90,00,000 for the police, and I shall remind you again Rs. 1 lakh for primary education, Rs. 15,000 for dispensaries, an Rs. 5,000 for agricultural farms! Is it because you have no money, that the reason why we cannot have the good things that we want? N it is because of this: that somebody else who is more powerful tha ourselves, viz., our Government, has got the power to take it away fro us. That is the reason. The question is now that we are on the thres old of a new era that has been given to us, Government should reco sider the circumstances and not stick to their old habits. In th Police table, there is one thing of great interest, and that is, that in tl first five years of the Morley-Minto reforms, expenditure went up b Rs. 20,00,000; in the next five years, it was Rs. 54,00,000; and in tl first year alone, before you are a day old under this new Reform, it tak another big jump of Rs. 27,00,000 at once, in this one year. And aga I say, "*Kismet*, and oh! the new Reforms."

(The speaker having finished the 3 minutes allotted to him, w allowed a minute more to conclude his sentence.)

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: This table shows an increase from Rs. 90 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore and 90 lakhs. This is progressive realisation indeed, if not of responsible government, at least of irresponsible waste!!

Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: Before I proceed to discuss generally some aspects of the Budget, presented to this Council, I take this opportunity of thanking the Government for its solicitude to adopt the "line of least resistance" by making up the deficit, by appropriating the past-balances, in view of the strong public opinion, in favour of "retrenchments" all round, and against the imposition of any fresh burden of taxation upon the people, in these hard days of inordinately high prices of the necessaries of life. I sincerely congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Member for his lucid and candid exposition of the extremely complicated and awe-inspiring figures, with which many of the members have to deal for the first time in their lives, and we have also to be grateful to him for placing his own and Mr. Marr's services at the disposal of members "for any information or any explanation that may be required on points not clear" to them. But, Sir, the fact remains that we are in an awful plight. A deficit of over Rs. 2,08,30,000 is bound to send a thrill of horror through the stoutest of hearts and bravest among us, and, until ways and means are indicated to meet this deficit, there can be no peace of mind for those who may have the humblest share in the administration of the country. In this state of things, no scheme of progress on any line whatsoever can be thought of. Palliatives are no good. Makeshift budgets bring no solace to the administrators, who suffer from pain and anguish for want of means to remove unavoidable wants. These budgets have sometimes been very aptly described as mere jugglery in figures, which enable financiers to keep back the real state of things from the public gaze and scrutiny. The present Budget is not amenable to a charge like that, because all its ugliest and worst features are transparently clear to the veriest stripling, who may choose to look at the figures. The pity of the whole thing lies in the fact that the "Reforms" which were heralded into life, with such a fanfare, have to start with such a heavy handicap! The Government may be wise in its way, in not resorting to any fresh taxation to meet the huge deficit and thus avoiding the adding of fresh fuel to the fire of agitation that is blazing in the country. But to meet this huge deficit by drawing on balances, which consist of doles granted by the Government of India to meet expenditure on specified objects, is certainly a measure of doubtful statesmanship and of questionable commonsense. It is after all a makeshift and the application of a temporary palliative, calculated to have no permanent soothing effect. This deficit again, to my mind, does not represent the actual deficit which we shall have to meet in future. Even in the "transferred" subjects and departments, which one of our Hon'ble Ministers aptly described as the nation-building subjects and departments, such as "Education" and "Public Health,"

we require vast sums of money to make even a modest beginning on sound practical lines. The dense mass of illiteracy has to be removed, the standard of health has to be raised, and the serious bread-problems have to be tackled, by the introduction of real technical and industrial education in the country.

Mr. Rushbrook Williams, in his report on India in 1919, says: "Just 3 per cent. of the population is under instruction—in the last census (1911) only six individuals in every hundred could achieve the very modest standard of literacy." Further he very pertinently observes in the same report that "until the general standard of literacy can be raised, it will be impossible for India to realise her immense industrial potentialities. The first step towards making immediate improvement *is the allocation of larger funds*." We want to make primary education free and compulsory, and the legislation to that effect has already been passed. But the question of questions remains, where to find the money?

The Hon'ble the Finance Member said in his speech introducing the Budget: "We have found it necessary, in consultation with the various departments, to reduce very greatly the original demands of the departments and to postpone the execution of many excellent and highly desirable schemes." Further he thanked the Ministers for the ready manner in which they met (the Finance Department) in this respect. But, Sir, the position of the Ministers must be very uncomfortable indeed. They have to justify their presence in this Council and the new system of Government before the country, by introducing some very urgent and long-deferred improvements and reforms in their "nation-building" departments. How can they do so without more money? In summing up the present financial condition depicted in the Budget, the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr said: "The total expenditure for the year stands at Rs. 11,80,13,000, which far exceeds the annual expenditure in any previous year. Large as the amount is, it is still far short of the needs of the Presidency. As has been explained already, progress has been delayed in almost every direction. A special officer is engaged in drawing up a scheme for the improvement of primary education in Bengal. As soon as some line of action in this matter is decided upon, very large expenditure will have to be faced. The necessity for educating cultivators in improved and scientific methods of cultivation is pressing. The need for more money to spend on sanitation and medical schemes is well-known and so on and so forth." He winds up by saying, that it must not be assumed therefore that the sum earmarked next year is anywhere near the maximum. This is very disappointing and disheartening. To meet the huge deficit of over Rs. 2 crores, by utilising the unspent balances, earmarked as doles for certain purposes, is hardly fair and partakes of the nature of a "gamble." The future is very gloomy, and without resort to fresh taxation and to the exercise of the borrowing power which the new scheme gives us a "boon," I for one moment

cannot think of any way to get out of this muddle. To resort to fresh taxation, for meeting the deficit mostly caused by lavish in the salaries, pensions, etc., on the ground of high prices, etc., is not only not "fair," but is *zulum* in the worst sense of the term. Are not the tax-payers affected by the present economic strain? Evidently the policy followed is that of robbing Peter to pay Paul. Does it not show that the "Reforms" have come with the costliest administration? In other countries the word "Reform" is always associated with the word "retrenchment," but here we have the word "extravagance" associated with it. The homely proverb "to cut the coat according to the cloth," though embodying a very plain and evident truth, has been given a complete go-by, by those who are responsible for allowing such vast expenditure in giving "increase" to the salaries of all the services. It is very easy to be generous with other people's money, particularly, when those other people happen to be dumb and inarticulate. I beg to enter my strongest protest against the "increase" allowed in this state of our poor finances, particularly to the princely salaries which all the higher-service-officers draw. The increases allowed or about to be allowed to the ministerial and menial establishments, for enabling the men to keep their bodies and souls together, may be justified, but what have we to say with regard to the higher and superior branches of the services? This top-heavy administration cannot stand long, without tumbling down, unless it is replaced by "*cheaper agencies*." Even if we look to the vast undeveloped resources of the province, there is no doubt that we shall have to spend large sums of money at the initial stages of the process of development, and "returns" are not to be expected in the near future. The Hon'ble the Finance Member, whose "robust optimism" is really amazing, refers us to the "borrowing power" conferred upon us, under the present arrangement, and asks us to exercise it on remunerative works. But in the same breath, he is constrained to say that unfortunately our total income is sufficient to meet our recurring expenditure and, until this deficit is got rid of, we cannot use our borrowing powers to the best advantage. A sound loan policy presupposes provision for a sinking fund, under which loans taken for specified objects will be paid off, both principal and interest, before the life of the project comes to an end. Here the ground on which we stand is evidently vanishing away under our feet.

To come next to our power for independent taxation. A glance at the Government of India Act will show that our power in that direction is extremely limited. In every direction we are "cribbed, cabined and confined." Besides the tolls or taxes which local bodies usually levy for local purposes, there is very little for us. Schedule I of the Act enumerates eight heads of taxes, which are within our competence, and the four out of those eight are not at all new and unexploited—only there are four kinds of taxes which this Council can impose, to make two ends meet, namely—(1) a tax on betting or gambling (2) a tax on

advertisements, (3) a tax on amusements, and (4) a tax on any specified luxury. It is ridiculous to think of any of these taxes being resorted to, for the purpose of meeting this huge deficit.

The hope of the Government of India or the Secretary of State coming to our rescue, by restricting and reducing our contribution to the Government of India to the net receipts of the income-tax, is yet only a hope and a pious wish, and financial adjustments can never be equitable between unequal partners. The maxim that "nothing is unfair in love and war" has the widest application in cases like this. The circumstances loudly call for the immediate constitution and formation of a "Retrenchment Committee" with extensive powers to examine every detail of administration and to suggest remedies for this *impasse*. It may be said that many of the heads of expenditure, where retrenchment may be possible, are beyond our jurisdiction and competence. Even there we can recommend retrenchment and voice public opinion, of which we are supposed to be an organ—which in these days ought to be irresistible. Before the final adoption of the Budget, we want to have the benefit of the recommendations and suggestions of such a useful committee. The stability and prosperity of every business concern are indicated by the "Reserve funds," which it can keep or maintain, not only to meet emergencies, but also for future developments. Here we have to look to our "opening and closing" balances. The opening balances, which have been drawn upon to meet the deficit and which have been described as "unduly swollen," represent earmarked doles, on specified objects, to which they were never applied. Whatever justification there may be for meeting the deficit in the current year in the way in which it has been done, we are now confronted with the serious problem of meeting our recurring expenditure. It would have been a great consolation, if the Hon'ble Finance Member could point his finger to any way, however crooked and nasty, besides the glorious privilege of "borrowing" to get out of this labyrinth. This reminds me of a very common story current among us, relating to the case of a prodigal and spendthrift heir of a rich father. The heir was very much inconvenienced by the father not allowing him sufficient funds to meet all his requirements and also by asking grabbing money-lenders, not to lend any money to the heir-apparent, on pain of his disinheritance. But as soon as the father died, the prodigal son started on his mad career of borrowing right and left, and had the candidness to tell one of his companions: "What a fine situation! I can now get any amount of money by simply putting my signature to a piece of paper" (meaning notes of hand, etc.). Our position is no way better than that of the prodigal heir.

There is one sound business principle which is followed everywhere, namely, not to spend a pice more than is absolutely necessary. Of course I am not one of those who will ask for economy at the sacrifice

of efficiency. But where equally good and cheaper agency is available, why should we go to costlier agencies? Why should we have Imperial service men, when we can manage the administration with the less costly Provincial service men? Many sins of both omission and commission have been committed in the past, in the name of efficiency and prestige two fetishes we have got to discard. We are on the very brink of a precipice. Even in England, one of the richest countries in the world, a vigorous anti-waste campaign has been started, and the time is not far distant, when all the wasteful departments of Government shall have to be brought to the melting-pot. Circumstanced as we are, we have got to be guided by some sound economic principles, and not by makeshift devices. The statutory committee on public accounts, which will shortly be constituted, may not serve the purpose which a committee for "retrenchment" is likely to do.

Then, with regard to "demands" and grants. We have not been told how the percentage of 65 : 35 has been arrived at, with regard to reserved and transferred subjects. Whatever may be the method of calculation, it is highly desirable that the transferred subjects, which include the "nation-building" departments, should be more generously dealt with. In conclusion, Sir, taking a common-sense view of the situation, I should suggest that, firstly, we should try to effect retrenchment, secondly, we should stay our hands from works, which can very well stand over, till we attain some sort of financial equilibrium, and lastly, we should set ourselves to the task of developing all unexploited resources and tapping all available sources of income.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I feel inclined to take a dip into the sea of figures which have been so admirably put up and arranged by the Hon'ble the Finance Member. I do not know whether any suggestions, which I shall be able to bring out therefrom, will be valuable or not, but at any rate I shall come in for my share of the salme water. On the very face of it the Budget seems to be a budget of huge deficit, which is not a very comfortable aspect sufficient to induce us—young councillors—to run amok like young colts, but, if we have got some brains left in us, we shall set athinking very seriously what is the meaning of all this and how to meet the deficit, because the Budget will not end in the course of this year, but we shall have to go into the same thing next year, and thus year after year. This leads me to think what the income of the estate is. Well, Sir, having taken into consideration some of the figures which have been shown on the receipt side, I find that they are really inflated. We ought to have been rather cautious in these estimates. The figures have been taken, as I understand, upon a calculation of normal years; but according to the official admission after two fat years or three fat years usually comes a lean year. Under the Land Revenue head we find, though it has been admitted that the

land revenue of Bengal is not elastic enough to admit of any expansion, that we have got an anticipated increase of Rs. 3,65,000.

Under the head of Excise, we have an anticipated increase of Rs. 8,00,000, in Stamps, over Rs. 13,00,000; Registration, Rs. 1,00,000. But we should count for two factors which have come into existence. We all know that there is a serious movement for the purpose of not going into courts and also for the purpose of not patronising the Excise Department. Whatever may be the pious wish of any of us, in order to get the money from these people, it is well nigh certain that ordinary people will not indulge in these sorts of things, at least to the extent they did in previous years. And I, for myself, will certainly thank them if they do so. That being so, so far as Excise is concerned, we have got really to give up the idea of saving Rs. 8,00,000; and so far as Stamps are concerned from what we judge from the general civic consciousness, I think the people will not go into courts and ruin themselves as before.

As for the new project of paper-book making, which I find has been taken up with an amount of zeal by Government, in that they have budgeted Rs. 1,30,000 for it, all the said conditions and the high costs of litigation will certainly lead to a reduction of litigation in the High Court, and that will lead to a reduction of our stamp revenue.

Then, for Registration, I am very glad to see that though the Hon'ble the Finance Member representing the benign Government has grown eloquent when he has to account for the grant of high salary on the top and also to leave some crumbs of bread for the lower rungs, he has also recognised, while accounting for the anticipated increase of Rs. 1,00,000 under the head of Registration, that there is distress and long-suffering on the part of the poor people of this country. This logic of recognising the poverty and distress of the people in general as the governing factor in giving the increase of Rs. 1,00,000 to Registration is appreciated. At the same time, in another place, he says: "Oh, their position will be alleviated on account of the good harvest, and they will be drinking and smoking *ganja*, and thereby the excise revenue will be increased." I, for myself, fail to see the point, which, as my friend Mr. Surendra Nath Mullick has very eloquently expressed, is that while you have got to make certain arrangements, and you have got to plead for your case, however weak it may be, you have got to put forward some sort of argument in order to justify this unfair allocation of money among the different heads of the Budget. That being so, we find that Rs. 30,00,000 has been shown as an inflated income on the receipt side.

Now, turning to the debit side, I am inclined to divide the subjects into two parts—the first relates to those which have been so eloquently described by the Grand Old Man of Bengal as the nation-building departments, and those which can generally be described by the name of administrative departments for the purpose of running the State, the

only object of which is to ensure the material and moral progress of the people in general. Now, that being so, it ought to be remembered that a rupee which may be laid out for the subjects which lead to the material and moral progress of the people is a rupee that is really gained and not lost. That being so, one would really expect that a Government, which is earnestly and sincerely bent on doing good to the country, would lay out as much money as possible under the heads of Sanitation, Education, Public Health, and Agriculture. Mr. Mullick has analysed these figures, and I shall not go into them. But I shall tell you in one moment that not only year after year very small grants have been allotted under these heads, but, curiously enough, in spite of all these increases in the paraphernalia of establishments and the rise of pay in season and out of season in these establishments, it appears by comparison of the figures for three or four years, that even considerable amounts could not be spent even last year. I will only compare a few figures and put them before you for what they are worth.

Now, Sir, the very first figure, which I find, comes under Public Health. Page 2 of the Budget shows that in 1920-21, Rs. 15,67,000 was allotted as against Rs. 14,12,000 of the previous year. Out of this, we see that almost one-sixth was not spent. Similarly, the figures for Industries and Education have been analysed fully and I shall not again go into them. We know how education has suffered and how the money, which was allotted for the poor maulvis and pandits, who draw a very small pittance, was withheld. It appears that a certain amount of money was returned as unspent. This is the way the inspecting staff are discharging their duties, and something should be done in this connection.

Coming to Medical, we come across a similar tale, and it is very curious that, as a matter of fact, the major portion of the money that is allotted under this head falls to the lot of the metropolis and to a very few districts close by, outlying districts like Chittagong, which want to have some crumbs of the loaf, are altogether neglected. The sympathetic Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan knows how anxious the people of Chittagong are to have a medical school there, and the principle was recognised long, long ago by Government, but even such a petty scheme as that was not approved of, although money is going like water to projects like the Ranchi Lunatic Asylum. We have, however, no quarrel with that in particular.

Coming to the figures under Police, my friend, Mr. Mullick, has told you how the grants are being increased. Practically the increase is not in an arithmetical progression but in a geometrical progression. Under the head of General Administration, more and more money is being allotted, and there is an increase—an increase resembling the rapidity of the fall of a cataract. I shall not go into the figures, but it is a fact which is borne out by a glance at page 2 of the Budget. What we find is that practically no less than 75 per cent. of the total

amount of receipts goes to the upkeep of the administrative departments the very object of which is really to see to the material and moral progress of the country which is being so sadly starved.

That being so, strenuous efforts should be made to find out the way of curtailment of expenditure, and the curtailment should come at the top, and our administration is really very top-heavy so that the pruning knife should be at once applied there on the first instance.

Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: It is really gratifying that in spite of the tumult of political life and the din of non-co-operation abroad, we have assembled under the new regime to take stock of our financial position under the Reforms which have given us a provincial autonomy. The Budget, as presented, calls for serious comments under many heads, and I should have taken the liberty of offering them on some of the most important heads, but my hon'ble colleagues and friends, Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri and Babu Surendra Nath Ray, Deputy-President, and other hon'ble members of this Council, have sufficiently dealt with them. I would therefore refer only to two matters which affect East Bengal closely.

A—As regards the extension of the Dacca Medical School: Administrative sanction of Rs. 56,000 was received in May 1920, and it will come as a great disappointment to Eastern Bengal that no provision has been made to meet this. Sir, I would request that the amount be budgeted as the work should be complete before next September. My reasons are as follows:—

The Dacca Medical School has more than doubled in number since 1917. Capital expenditure on buildings was confined to what was absolutely necessary, *i.e.*, about Rs 12,000, during the war. Since then with the increase of students, some small additions have been made, but more are necessary.

These include anatomical accommodation—estimated cost Rs. 15,000—which is all we ask for at present, but this is really urgent as it must be provided by September 1st 1921, so as not to interfere with school work next winter session.

The income from fees has increased from Rs 9,603 to Rs 25,000 in the last four years, 1917—1921, and the cost per head to Government has been halved, *i.e.*, from Rs. 140 to Rs. 70.

The enlargement really represents a new school of over 200 students, at a capital cost so far of about Rs. 25,000. The sum of Rs. 15,000 more, for which we now ask, will only make the capital expenditure Rs. 40,000 and with a new examination hall at Rs. 56,000, still under Rs. 1,00,000. It costs Rs 5,00,000 in capital expenditure to provide a new school. Our demands are, therefore, very small and eminently economical.

It was enlarged, Sir, at the urgent request of Government, and now we are only asking that Government shall perform a small portion of

their part of the bargain. The education now given is suffering to some extent, owing to the lack of accommodation. Students have to sit in the congested rooms and outside in the open space and in the verandahs.

B—As regards the Dacca University: The amount budgeted under this head is insufficient, and in view of the reply which Government gave to my interpellation on the 7th February, viz., that the Dacca University will be in working order from July next; I would humbly request Government to allot a sufficient amount for the work which is essentially necessary to begin. It is hardly necessary for me to point out that already the delay in my part of the province has caused great disappointment, and it is only fit and proper that the feelings of East Bengal should be a little more respected in this matter. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick" is a well tried maxim, and I would beg to tell the Government that the working of the scheme should not be delayed a day longer, for we know that the Government of India contributed certain amounts annually for this work and the Government of Bengal is bound, and morally bound, to allot the amount which is just now necessary to give the work a start. I am afraid I cannot, from the papers circulated, make out as to what amount the Government of India has given to the Provincial Government so far for this scheme, but I should not be surprised if a portion of the provincial balance spoken of in the note of the Hon'ble Finance Member is the unspent balance of that amount, and it is only reasonable that Government should now allot sufficient funds for giving the University an immediate start without any further delay. I do realise fully the present financial position of Government, and I fully sympathise with it, but I believe it will be conceded on all hands for clear reasons, that parsimony in the allotment of sufficient funds for the Dacca University at this moment will not only be disastrous, but also an act of bad faith to the people of East Bengal. I cannot put it higher than that, though one must feel a bit surprised and disappointed at the way in which some members have referred to this question—East Bengal wants, and badly wants, sympathy, and not unkind words.

Our position is unique in the financial arrangements made by the Government of India, and we have to cut our coat according to the cloth at our disposal. We are grateful to the Government of Bengal for the manly fight it put up before the Government of India in this matter, but, strange to say, nothing came out of it, though the case for Bengal was a very strong one. The Montagu-Chelmsford Report proposed to levy the contribution on the basis of an all-round ratio of the surplus of the budgets of the provinces. The Meston Committee rejected this plan, because it reproduces the existing inequalities of treatment, that the methods of arriving at normal expenditure were arbitrary, and did not take into consideration the needs of the provinces in the coming years, and that economical management and thrift on

the part of some of the provinces were penalised. The new basis for levy pitched upon is the improvement in the resources as a result of the new rearrangement, and it is claimed that it creates minimum disturbance. It is because the plan proceeds on the lines of least resistance that the Committee's recommendation cannot be considered to be greatly superior to the original scheme, for many of the defects of the latter are found in the former. The Committee did not recommend that additional Imperial taxation should be resorted to in order to meet the deficit, on the comfortable assumption that it would be wrong to do so because the provinces have a large margin, which could be tapped. It is further pointed out that certain provinces, such as Madras, the United Provinces and Bengal, cannot digest the additional funds all at once, and it will be unwise to leave with them such a large amount. Bengal public opinion will undoubtedly resent most strongly this reflection on their ability to manage their own finances, and it is very regrettable, that having admitted that Bengal has a lower level of expenditure than the Central Provinces or other provinces, and that her needs are urgent and important, the Committee should have laid down the fanciful and unwarranted proposition that Bengal cannot for some years find profitable investments for her money. Another curious and objectionable fact must also be mentioned: an all round ratio on the improved resources is not, as one might think, proposed, but special consideration is given to Assam, the Central Provinces, Bihar and Burma. The arrangement, therefore, is deeply iniquitous to Bengal, which is called upon to bear the expenditure of other impecunious provinces. The rate of standard contribution to be reached six years hence is naturally vitiated by the same blemishes which characterise the initial levies. A number of circumstances have been taken into consideration in arriving at the standard contribution, *i.e.*, the relative capacity of the provinces, their resources, industrial development, economic condition, and probability of future progress, etc. But admittedly the figures are arbitrary and defy any intelligible analysis. The question of the ultimate abolition of contribution is but incidentally referred to: while they say that the Government of India have such an idea, they warn the latter not to commit themselves definitely about it. This is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs; poignancy is added to regret by the long period over which the progressive deficit is spread in regard to the heavily taxed provinces. It is therefore perhaps right to say that the committee have failed in the most essential part of their duty, that is, in attempting a lasting solution of the problem. It is clear, the Imperial deficit is perfectly unnecessary, if it is inevitable, then the Government of India should improve their own resources, which are capable of expansion unlike the provincial sources of revenue. So long, therefore, as the financial injustice to Bengal is not remedied, I think this Council should be on its guard and try to retrench expenditure as much as possible. The

committee for an enquiry into this question, as suggested by Mr. S. N. Mullick, a member of this House, is, therefore, an urgent necessity, and it is hoped Government will see its way to take action on the lines. What would then be our duty in the present condition of the country? Is it to thwart the working of the scheme under which we have met and produce an *impasse*, or to do our best to the scheme smoothly and successfully and pave the way for steady march towards the goal? It is to be hoped, and most earnestly hoped, that the country will have the good sense to perceive that progress can be achieved sooner by utilising the merits of the scheme and the opportunities for work than by exploiting its defects and manœuvring for the breakdown of the machinery. It would perhaps be not wise to imagine any antagonism between the schemes of the Reserved and Transferred subjects and to ignore the just claims of the one or the other. A comprehensive view of the needs of the entire administration and a spirit of harmonious co-operation between the people and the Government and between the different classes of the body politic are the requirements of the future. The successful working of the scheme now inaugurated is the surest means for attaining the final goal in the shortest possible time. It is to be hoped that the Members of Government will be animated by a feeling of loyalty to accomplish facts and, in a spirit of mutual trust and confidence, strive to bring about the success of the Reforms. The wishes of His Imperial Majesty in this regard are widely known throughout the length and breadth of the country, and no better proof of it could possibly exist than the coming of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught with a mission from His Imperial Majesty to this country with the message of hope. The words of His Highness the Duke of Connaught, which are words of hope and encouragement, sympathy and affection, and so nobly uttered, should prove an inspiration to us. The present century, so aptly called the "Century of Hope," may not, let us pray, be one of "Despair," and, in this hope, let us work for that *Self-Government* or *Swaraj*, of which the beginnings we have already started.

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: After a most careful and anxious survey of the various facts and figures of the Budget on the table, I regret much to say that after all the Budget presents very discouraging features: r ay, it has raised a tune, strikingly discordant with the spirit of the era of Reform. Bengal has all along been a solvent province; it is a pity that with the advent of the Reforms it begins with an estimated deficit of more than 2 crores of rupees. No doubt a certain portion of it will be spent as capital expenditure, but still the amount left, Rs. 14,00,000, for carrying out the ordinary work of administration, is quite disquieting. The authorities are not to be congratulated that there is no fresh taxation this year and the deficit can be made up from the surplus at their disposal.

Sooner or later, nay in the very next Budget, fresh taxes must be introduced, if the present administrative machine is to move at all. There is no other way out of it. Even if the peculiar financial position of the province be reconsidered, and we are granted the jute export duty, it will simply mend the Budget as it is. No further developments will be possible, and yet the grants in the various departments, as we also feel, are the bare minima which His Excellency the Governor, after anxious consultation with the Members of his Executive Council and his Ministers, considers should be spent in the coming year. Again the jute export duty, even if introduced, will not come up to the pre-war level, owing to the increased consumption of raw materials in the local mills, and falling out of old customers. Any substantial increase of revenue from income-tax cannot be expected in the immediate future. Thus the prospect before us is either loan or fresh taxation. I know not which is worse. To carry the ordinary works of administration by loan, with no immediate prospects for increased revenue, is out of the question: while any fresh taxation at the present moment will be regarded as a disaster.

The huge deficit is mainly due to the increase in Salaries and Establishments, excepting the unavoidable item of the provincial contribution. Owing to a general rise in the cost of living, the Government has lavishly increased the salaries of the higher services, regardless of the resources of those who will have to bear the burden. The lower services and ministerial establishments require much greater attention, but no relief has yet been granted to them. In spite of a prospective deficit in the Budget, the Government went on increasing the salaries. They should have foreseen all these, more so, specially when the requirements in sanitation and education are considered.

Coming to the actual figures in the Budget, we find the distribution under Transferred and Reserved subjects to be about 35 per cent. and 65 per cent., respectively, practically the same as in the previous years. The transferred groups contain the subjects vitally important for nation-building, and we confidently expected that, with the advent of the Reforms, more attention would be paid to these departments, which have been more or less neglected hitherto. In a province like ours, which is preponderatingly agricultural, sanitation, agriculture and primary education should have the particular care of the Government; and, when the bread problem and the question of public health have been satisfactorily settled, much of the difficulties will be solved.

Under the Revenue heads the estimated increase of 4 per cent. in Excise against 6 per cent. in the current year, I am afraid, will not materialise. Out of a total of Rs. 3 crores in Excise, Rs. 1 crore 73 lakhs is expected from the sale of liquors, license, distillery fees, etc., and other excise drugs. The major portion of these is from country liquors, and about 70 per cent. of that is consumed in Calcutta and its surrounding mill areas. But in view of the 4 days' work system proposed to be introduced in the mills and the vigorous anti-drinking propaganda now

raging in the country, it may be safely concluded that it will seriously affect the revenues. In the case of opium also, the results of the last Government sales are not very hopeful.

On the Stamp head the Government expects an increase of 5 per cent., against a decrease of 6 per cent. in the current year. The reasons for hoping so are not quite convincing, and the outlook and experience are definitely against it. The period of industrial boom is over, and the present economic depression will certainly continue for some time more. To this, if the present increased apathy to litigation is added, it will be no wonder if there be a substantial decrease in this head also.

An increase of Rs. 6 lakhs is expected from industries of cinchona cultivation. But a review of the rapid fall of revenue from this with the cessation of war hardly justifies this.

A study of these figures makes me believe that the revenue in the coming year will certainly fall short of the estimate, and the expected surplus will be used up.

Turning to the expenditure side, one will find that not only the proportions of the various departments are following their traditions, but the increments also are following the same paths.

Police, as usual, is getting the lion's share, and, in spite of the fact that the authorities admit that the grants in Sanitation and Education are the minimum possible, provisions for the rearrangement of the Town Police in the 24-Parganas and Hooghly, for married sergeants' quarters in Calcutta, and for the strengthening of the Asansol Emergency Force have been made. To add to this, the whole of the cost of the Railway Police is thrust upon as an additional burden on the revenue.

The grant for Education is rather of an illusory character. Out of a total of Rs. 18 lakhs, Rs. 9 lakhs are allotted to the Dacca University. I do not grudge the increased grant for European primary education, but it is a great pity that primary education for the masses has received no adequate consideration. The little extra grant for primary education is a mere drop in the ocean.

It is a pity that out of a budget of Rs. 12 crores, only about Rs. 20 lakhs have been allotted for Sanitation and Public Health in a province where malaria and other epidemic diseases are creating such annual havocs, inconceivable in other civilised countries. Agriculture also has no better lot. In a country where cultivators form 70 per cent of the population, a Rs. 20 lakhs allotment is quite inadequate and out of proportion.

In conclusion, with all my belief for the Reforms, I must say the Budget falls too short of the expectations of the new era. Reforms are declared as a boon to the country, and so it should be. People must live as in other democratic countries and work in co-operation with the Government for its moral and material prosperity. To attain this the

Government is also expected to do its duty to the people, and should make ample provision for the various vital departments, such as Sanitation, Education, Agriculture, Industry, etc., which are the real factors of nation-building. It may be urged in reply that our resources are inadequate, but before the country submits to fresh impositions it must be satisfied that all possible retrenchments have been made. In the face of the present Budget, it can hardly be said that this has been attempted. My appeal to both branches of the administration is to set an example of economy: to the Executive Council, to cut down its exuberant body; to the Ministers, to cut down their extravagant emoluments.

Maulvi YAQUINUDDIN AHMED: The Budget has been presented by the Hon'ble Finance Member for the consideration of this House. On the eve of the constitution of the Reformed Council the pay of the officers has been increased, and the Hon'ble Finance Member has given a reason that the deficit of Rs. 2½ crores is to some extent due to that increase. The increase that was given on the eve of the constitution of the Reformed Council gives rise to the suspicion that the Hon'ble the Finance Member did not trust the reasonableness of this House. I think it would have been much better, and would have been more graceful, if such a fact that the officers' pay had to be increased on account of the rise in prices was placed before the House, and this House would have considered that such an increase ought to be given. But that trust was not vouchsafed to this House. They have been increased and we come here for the first time after the constitution of the Reformed Council to learn that there is a deficit of Rs. 2½ crores and more. I think that now, when there is a deficit, we have to face it manfully. We have heard already that the Finance Committee has been sitting, and have come to the conclusion that the Government of India have taken away a large amount of revenue and that Bengal has been treated most unmercifully, as compared with other provinces. Now that there is a deficit, I think that our people, instead of being afraid they would be freshly taxed, should go up to the Government of India for making up that deficit.

The treatment accorded to Bengal has been most unfair in comparison with that meted out to Bombay, Madras, the United Provinces and other provinces, and it is the bounden duty of the Government of India to come to the rescue of this province, when there is a deficit of Rs. 2½ crores. My countrymen should not be afraid that they are to be taxed, but we want that from the Government of India.

There are many items in the Budget which we have to consider, and we should cut our coat according to our cloth. I come first to the Dacca University. Nobody is more grateful to Government than I am for giving us that University, but at the same time we must consider, and I must put it before the House, that the Government has

allotted a large amount for the construction of buildings. I think that only a few years back Dacca was going to be the capital of East Bengal and there were very spacious buildings erected by Government, I think that it is a sheer waste of money, now that the Dacca University is an accomplished fact, that instead of utilising those buildings, Government should have launched upon the erection of fresh buildings. I think this is a piece of extravagance, which we should curtail in order to make up the deficit.

I submit before the House that with regard to the expenditure on Industries and Agriculture and Public Health there is an increase in the inspecting staff by appointing commanders without an army to command. I would cite one or two instances With regard to Agriculture, we find that Rs. 32,700 is going to be spent on the staff of the Director of Agriculture. The entire cost will come up to Rs 85,000, which includes house rent, hill allowance, Dacca allowance, etc. But what about the amount to be spent on real agricultural work? Rs. 5,000 only!

Then I come to the Calcutta Medical College, for which a large provision has been made in the Budget. We know that in the Medical College students are often refused admission. Hundreds and hundreds of students every year apply for admission into the Medical College, and they are prepared to pay the full fees, but the Principal refuses them admission. But, if they are admitted on payment of full fees, we could make up a portion of our deficit. We can do it by an unrestricted admission of students, who come up to the standard and are willing to pay full fees for their admission. There are a thousand and one such ways for making up the deficit. The Hon'ble Finance Member has presented the deficit before the House, but I am sure there are means by which the deficit could be made up, as for instance by appointing a committee of inquiry about these receipts and expenditure With these words I beg to resume my seat.

Mr. H. A. STARK: The several criticisms which have been offered on the Budget seem to me to have overlooked the important fact that its framers have had very little time for its preparation. The Government of India first settled the sources of income for Bengal, and then required the Government of Bengal to square the income of the province with its expenditure, when those who had to solve the problem had hardly had time to realise that they were the veritable Ministers and Councillors of a Legislative Council of a newly launched Reformed Government. Instead of it being realised that an exceedingly difficult task had been laid on our Executive Councillors and Ministers, and, instead of employing our imagination in picturing what we ourselves could or would have done, had we been placed in similar circumstances, we have been free with our condemnation. But, so far as I can remember, we have not advanced a single suggestion that can help the Ministers and Hon'ble Members out of the difficulty, into which they have been plunged not by themselves

but by others. We seem to have lost sight of the circumstances that the Budget has been imposed upon our Government from outside—that it is a heritage of the immediate past, that it is in part the price we have to pay for a new form of Government. In all transition stages there are special difficulties to be encountered and we have no right whatever to expect that in financing our province in the first year of a popular Government there will be no compromises and no concessions to personal inclinations and judgments. Let us be at least generous enough to acknowledge that the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr and those associated with him in framing the Budget now under consideration, have been called upon to perform a well nigh impossible task; that they have not had a free hand; that they have had to steer successfully between an insufficient revenue and the present needs and demands of an ever-expanding expenditure. A great deal has been made of certain insufficient allotments and it seems to have been forgotten entirely that making an allotment is one thing and another thing to have the guarantee that the allotment made will actually be expended within the year. Admittedly, again, there is room for cleavage of opinion, such antagonism of conviction, for instance, as was evidenced yesterday between Professor Mukherji and Rai Pyari Lal Doss Bahadur, when they were discussing the provisions for the Calcutta University and the Dacca University. Admittedly, too, there are items of expenditure which we may regard as ill-proportioned and out of scale. Take, for instance, the expenditure of Rs. 21,25,000 on Stationery and Printing, when Rs. 10,68,000 is allotted to Universities and Rs. 25,99,000 to secondary education.

But let us be exact. When the amount set aside for primary education is Rs. 25,50,000 let us not say—as so many of us have said—that only Rs. 1,00,000 has been given to primary education. Indeed a good deal more than Rs. 25,50,000 will be spent on primary education, if we take into account the large sums spent on the primary sections of high schools or middle schools, on *guru*-training schools, on *maktabs* and on *Koran* schools, all of which really come within the sphere of primary education. I may be pardoned for saying that it is not fair to accuse the Minister for Education of being content to spend only Rs. 1,00,000 on primary education, when, as a matter of fact, Rs. 1,00,000 is being added by him to the Rs. 24,50,000 already being expended on that education.

It is with much regret—much personal regret—that I have heard so much made of the grant of Rs. 1,99,000 to European schools. It has been said that whereas the whole primary education in Bengal is to receive only Rs. 1,00,000, a handful of European and Anglo-Indian children are to have Rs. 1,99,000 expended upon their education. I wonder, Sir, whether it is realised that last year from the Provincial revenues of Bengal European schools received a little over Rs. 10,50,000, whereas their fees amounted to Rs. 12,50,000 and the income from their endowments and subscriptions to very nearly

Rs. 9,00,000. I do wish that we had similar figures to report for our Indian high schools. As a matter of fact, it is forgotten, it seems to me, that these very European schools teach quite a large percentage of Indian children—non-European children—and, so high is the value set on the education obtainable in European schools, that Indian gentlemen prefer to get their sons admitted into the aided European schools, in preference to the Hindu schools and colleges, and to the Calcutta Madrasah. One would like to ask, what would be the state of higher education for Indian girls, if such large numbers of them were not admitted into the European schools for girls? Let us have fair play all round. Let us make our acknowledgments of mutual benefits—benefits given and benefits received. We all belong to this province, and we ought to have an equal share in its citizenship. No one is asking for more than what is due. Let it not be forgotten that minorities require safeguarding. I do not know what the latest figures may be, but a few years ago the quinquennial report on education in India had it that European education cost annually Rs. 42½ lakhs, of which only Rs. 8½ lakhs, *i.e.*, 20 per cent. came from provincial revenues, and the balance (80 per cent.) was paid entirely by the European and Anglo-Indian communities themselves. The same report shows that in the same year the provincial funds of Bengal bore 78 per cent. of the total expenditure on Indian secondary education, the Indians themselves bearing only 22 per cent., the proportion being nearly in inverse ratio to the proportions for European education. My work of 25 years took me through the length and breadth of Bengal, and I may claim that I have a fairly good knowledge of the whole province, of almost every subdivision or every thana of it, and I may state—and it is a well-known fact—that there are numerous municipalities, even large municipalities, such as Dacca, which do not spend even the 3·2 per cent., which is sanctioned under the Municipal Act, for expenditure upon primary education.

A great deal has been said about the grant of Rs. 80,000 to the Kalimpong Homes. Is it realised by the Council that the Kalimpong Homes got this Rs. 80,000 this year after they had raised Rs. 9 lakhs from private sources? I do wish, I say again, that we could say the same thing in respect of Indian schools. There are hundreds of Indian gentlemen, who have got much wealth, but who have not got the heart to help Indian education as they might help it.

Several speakers have referred to the deficit of Rs. 2½ crores, but I do not think that sufficient stress has been laid on the attempts that have been made to persuade the Government of India to restore to Bengal something of the large contributions she has made, and is still being called upon to make, to the Government of India exchequer. It is to be hoped that this Council, instead of finding fault with Executive Councillors and Ministers, will reinforce the contention put forward that Bengal is entitled to at least a part of her revenues from income-tax and the jute and tea industries. If her just claims were fairly met by

the higher Government, Bengal would have no deficit: but if we are to continue to stand as we now are in respect of the financial adjustment between India and Bengal Governments, it is obvious that eventually we shall have to resort to fresh taxation, and yet I have noticed that we have fought shy of the very mention of fresh taxation. Why is this? Is it because we are still expecting that we shall not be in need of imposing fresh taxes, inasmuch as the Government of India is going to relent? Instead of hoping against hope, is it not better that we should face the situation straight? Merely criticising the Budget, which certainly has its defects, some remediable and others not, is not doing progressive or constructive work. If we can put the Budget right, let us show how that can be done. If we mean to wait and see, let us do so, and carry on with the Budget as now presented to us. It is idle to expect that the first Budget of a new Government will be acceptable in every respect and to every one. Only those who have the misfortune to frame a Government Budget know what an intricate matter it is, how intractable many of its factors, and sometimes how almost impossible. My considered opinion, Sir, is that we should take the present Budget as our starting point; set our Committee of Public Accounts to keep a strict watch over the year's expenditure; add to our experience of the practical working of the Budget: and thus prepare ourselves for the time when we shall have to make a new Budget for the next year.

Babu NALINI NATH ROY: In paragraph 7 of this year's Budget we find the following remarks:—

> During the period of the war owing to enforced economy all new expenditure proposals are very carefully scrutinized and only urgent and unavoidable expenditure was permitted, with the result that all development was practically at a standstill. With all this leeway to make up, and in view of the difficulties in the way of making it up the Presidency is faced with an unparalleled demand for development in every direction.

In view of this pronouncement it behoves every member of the Council to suggest every possible source of economy. A sum of Rs. 29,00,000 is budgeted for the purpose of carrying on old-standing survey and settlement operations and for operations for three new districts.

Although three-fourths of the cost of these operations are realised from the people, I fail to understand why, in the face of so many demands and so little to meet them, new settlement operations are budgeted for, or even continued, in old districts. Even if the Government will not be any poorer to the extent of three-fourths of this cost—what about the people? Will it not make them less fitted to contribute towards sanitary provisions, for example, to voluntary local taxation, the value of which, as regards sanitation and other matters, has been observed by His Excellency the Governor on his tours?

Why not save even this one-fourth of Rs. 24 lakhs? It is not a negligible amount. I cannot think any amount of public money, however small, is a negligible factor in Bengal, treated as it is by the Imperial Government and by the scourge of malaria, why then let loose the locust

hordes of survey officials over the fair fields of Bengal to eat up the resources of the people? The need of sanitation, the eradication of malaria in particular, are paramount. This need far transcends any other needs in this land of shifting rivers. I would even say that it overrides the claims of education. Most certainly we want education and mean to have it, but it is well known that education is not needed for its own sake—except by the philosopher—but as a means to other ends. We want education and the spread of it to every village, to every home, but why? I should say and urge that the principal objective of education in this province, if not in every province, should be to teach the people the elements of sanitation. The other objective of education is to make us prosperous and happy, but one must first of all live and thrive. Any amount of money, however small, that we can scrape out of the Budget, should be secured and devoted to this cause, I may say—to this sacred cause.

I would point out one mischief that malaria is doing all over Bengal. It is taking away several inches out of the height of the people at every generation. Many of us could recall the sight of stalwart men and women in many villages and families, the average height of whom was well over 6 feet; but now we find a 6-footer a rarity in the villages. This is one of the blessings of malaria, and, if this is to continue, we will soon become a race of undersized people!

I am not concerned so much with the annual death-roll of Bengal, however formidable, for death under certain circumstances is release, but what pains me is the future of the race; and no time is to be lost if we do wish to exist as a healthy and prosperous race.

Then there is the deepening of the Madaripur Bil Route. I do not doubt it is a very useful highway for commerce to flow through, but as I have said before, the needs of sanitation are urgent. The necessity for the spread of commerce should give place to it. The total Budget estimate for sanitary purposes is Rs. 7,82,000 and for expense in connection with plague, malaria and other epidemics, Rs. 1,83,000—Rs. 9,65,000 in all. The expense of this Bil Route—the exact figure—I could not find. The Grand Trunk Canal is of the same character—spread of commerce. Although it is a very good idea, I must say again that the needs of sanitation are urgent. No doubt it is being constructed out of loans; but what we cannot forget is the limit to the ability of Government to raise loans. We want loans and loans enough, by far the larger part of which must be spent for the purpose of driving out malaria. After the necessities of external defence and internal peace the elimination of the scourge should form the central object in our mental perspective, to which every other idea should be subordinate. This Grand Trunk Canal will be in the hands of Government as regards raising and spending money towards the central idea. So I think this project should have been postponed. Why it is labelled "Productive Irrigation work" I cannot understand? What has it got to do with irrigation?

Lastly, I find provision for revision of pay on a large scale, amongst others, of services, such as, deputy collectors, sub-registrars, munsiffs and many others. The extra Budget allotment for revision of pay amounts to many more lakhs of rupees than are earmarked for sanitation. On what ground do we fix and revise the pay of officers of Government? Is it based on ideas of charity or the whims and caprices of personages? Is any principle followed or not? I think it should be based on principle; and the only sound principle to follow is to fix the minimum sum which will suffice to bring in proper recruits. As things stand at present there is not much field left for generosity or charity, or if there is any, it should be postponed before that supreme urgency of killing malaria. Now, is there any dearth of applicants of the proper class in any of the branches of service I have mentioned? I think every Divisional Commissioner will be able to testify how his life is made miserable by hosts of applicants for subordinate executive posts, the vast majority of whom are M.A.'s and B.A.'s of good physique and passable intelligence. We do not want better classes of men than these—gentlemen of decent education, physique and commonsense. I will agree when it is said that on the pay they are getting now, they cannot live well. But what I cannot forget is that 99 per cent. of their employers have to live worse. So I think, so long as there is no want of suitable men in any branch of public service, their pay should not be revised for the sake of liberality. We cannot afford to be liberal.

Babu SAILAJA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI: The Hon'ble Mr. Kerr in his review of the Budget has said that His Excellency the Governor, after anxious consultation with the Members of his Executive Council and his Ministers, considers that the sums earmarked for expenditure in the ensuing year should be spent, and has concluded with a hope that the Budget as presented to the Council will be found acceptable as a whole. I thank the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr for the lucid explanation with which he presented the Budget, but I regret I cannot congratulate him.

The situation is grave and our responsibilities are graver still. Our expenses have gone up and must necessarily go up still higher if we want to carry out any improvement. Mr. Kerr has himself observed that the Presidency is faced with an unparalleled demand for development in every direction. The Government is helpless—they cannot meet it even half way. How are we to face the situation? We are handicapped—the raising of a loan is an impossibility, for we cannot expect to pay it off from our resources, which are not even enough to meet our modest demands. There is hardly any source of a new revenue to help us out of the difficulty. Such being the case, we ought to have made all-round retrenchment, we ought to have brought our expenses within our means, but, instead of doing that, we propose to draw on our unspent balance, leaving very little to meet exigencies, and have depended on doubtful sources of revenue.

The expectation of a large increase in revenue, especially under Land Revenue, Stamps and Excise is unfortunately not likely to be realised. The calculation is based on bad logic and cannot stand to reason. Considering the large increase in expenditure and also taking into account the fact that the revised Budget estimate of expenditure almost invariably exceeds the Budget estimate, I believe, the Budget will hardly provide the minimum balance as required under the rules. I should say the closing balance is dangerously small.

It is found that out of the opening balance of Rs. 3,44,79,000, a provision of Rs. 86,58,000 has been made for the redemption of the provincial loans, and it is further proposed to draw Rs. 2,08,31,000. Of this Rs. 67,35,000 is for initiation of new schemes and Rs. 1,40,96,000 is necessary for carrying on the ordinary work of administration or for schemes to which the Government is practically bound to give effect during the year. It is all very good spending out of the unspent balances, but the Finance Member should have explained how far this was justified.

The greater part of the expenditure has been earmarked for General Administration, Justice, Police, Civil Works, etc., while expenditure on Education, Public Health, Agriculture and Sanitation has been very inadequately and improperly provided. It will not be out of place to mention here that a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 only has been given for primary education in Bengal, as against Rs. 80,000 for St. Andrew's Colonial Homes, Kalimpong. We all know the percentage of literacy in Bengal is deplorable; only 5 to 6 per cent. of the male population receive education in primary schools. While the Government allot Rs. 20,000 in raising the house-rent of the European sergeants, and Rs. 2,83,000 for acquisition of land for the married sergeants of the Calcutta Police, the insignificant grant of Rs. 1,00,000 is kept apart for the education of millions. One is thus tempted to ask, which is more important—the education of the masses or the luxuries of an insignificant section of the police force? When I take into account the poor and paltry grant of Rs. 1,00,000 for primary education, I cannot help regretting that a comparatively large sum of Rs. 9,00,000 should be spent on the residential university at Dacca. It is making education top-heavy.

I am sorry I could not follow Mr. Stark as to how Rs. 25,00,000 came within the scope of our discussion on primary education. The Hon'ble Minister will please explain if it is so.

Like Education, Sanitation seems to have been neglected too. Surely a grant of Rs. 15,000 for the mufassal dispensaries, in striking contrast with Rs. 4,25,000 granted for the revision of pay of the police officers, is not convincing. Sanitation is the crying need of the day and I should say that everything else must wait till the finances are placed on a more secure footing.

Expenditure proposed to be incurred on items like the appointment of Deputy Director of Agriculture, the revision of pay of the Police officers, Civil Works, Survey and Settlement, etc., ought to be put off, or at any rate modified, and a vigorous impetus should be given to Agriculture and Industry. The prospects of extension of education, improvement of sanitation, development of industry, appear to me as gloomy as ever. My countrymen are anxiously waiting to see how far their hopes and aspirations are going to be fulfilled under the Reforms, and the Ministers have to explain how far they can satisfy their wishes.

In conclusion, I beg to say, I do not find any provision for gratuitous relief and advance to areas where scarcity prevails. Last year and also this year the people in parts of the Khulna district suffered terribly from scarcity, and the *Basumati* and the *Servant* published accounts of the distress. In the next official year also it will be necessary to help these people destitute—despondent drooping. I ask the Hon'ble Member to make ample provision for such distress, and I hope I do not ask in vain.

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: In opening the Conference of the representatives of the District Boards held at Government House, Calcutta, in 1919, His Excellency the Governor, Lord Ronaldshay, was pleased to make mention of a scheme of bonificazione to be taken up at an early date at Rangkini-Doho in the district of Burdwan. Burdwan, as you all know, is notorious for unhealthiness, due mainly to malaria, and the area within the jurisdiction of thana Jamalpur therein is the worst, and this scheme will benefit a great part of it. The selection of this tract was a very good one, so far as I can say as the Chairman of the District Board of Burdwan. I pray, therefore, that an adequate provision be made in the Budget for the scheme, so that such an important scheme may not be kept in abeyance for want of funds.

The sub-registrars of Bengal, I understand, have submitted a memorial to the Government for bettering their position and prospects. They are, as is known to all, a class of officers entrusted with very responsible work. Their case may be favourably considered and provision made accordingly. They have in their memorial stated their case fully and I need not dilate on it.

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: All the previous speakers have spoken about the general aspects of the Budget, but I want to say something about the mufassal. I find that the mufassal has not got adequate treatment at the hands of the framers of the Budget. I come from the district of Dinajpur. It is notoriously malarious. The same is true of every other district in Bengal, and it is unfortunate that no provision has been made in the Budget to improve the sanitary condition of the poor people of Bengal. But we find a large allotment

for medical relief in Calcutta. A gentleman the other day said that such a large amount is necessary for Calcutta, because Calcutta manufactures doctors for the whole of Bengal. To him I would reply that first we must have people living in the country before we manufacture doctors for treating them. In my district I find that the death-rate is far higher than the birth-rate, and, if depopulation goes on in this way for a long time, we do not know what is in store for the future. My friend, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray, one day told me that there are a good many Sonthals in the district of Dinajpur, and I represent them in this Council. The people of my district are dying out, and we have to bring in for cultivation a number of Sonthals. But things may come to such a pass that in future a representative of the district of Dinajpur will ultimately represent only the Sonthals and Oraons. We hoped that Government would come forward and help us in improving the sanitary condition of the district, and not leave this work in the hands of the district boards and municipalities. The income of the district boards is very limited; the major portion of which is spent on construction and maintenance of roads and on primary education. It is too much to ask the district boards to take charge also of the sanitary work of the district. We find in the Budget a provision of Rs. 2,88,000 for mufassal hospitals and dispensaries, but out of this Rs. 70,000 goes as pay of the assistant and sub-assistant surgeons and Rs. 35,000 for compounders, and so on. There is thus scarcely anything left for helping the district boards to carry on their medical work.

I may mention here that Government is making an annual profit of Rs. 12,50,000 from the cinchona plantation. We all know that quinine is the only remedy for malaria, and, when the Government makes such an enormous profit from the illness of the people, that amount ought to be spent for the prevention of that illness; that amount should be earmarked for hospitals and dispensaries in the mufassal, or the Government should give up making such profit and sell quinine at cost price.

I now turn to Agriculture. We find that on demonstration farms and agricultural farms, which have been established at some places, Rs. 2,66,500 is spent annually, but the income from these farms does not exceed Rs. 2,00,000. That is to say, the demonstration farms, which were started to teach the people the utility of introducing improved methods of agriculture in the country, are a source of loss to the public funds. Therefore the people will not benefit by this example, that is to say, they would not take to improved methods of agriculture.

We find no provision for the development of industrial societies on the co-operative credit system, or for industrial and technical education. The bulk of the money provided for the purpose goes for direction and inspection, and nothing is left for the expansion of industries in Bengal.

Turning to primary education, we find there is a provision of Rs. 1,50,000 for model primary schools and Rs. 25,00,000 for grants-in-aid. I do not know on what principle this amount is going to be distributed amongst the districts. Some districts receive preferential treatment at the hands of Government, but I think the distribution must be made on some definite basis and according to the necessity of a district.

We have not been given sufficient time to go through the details of the Budget, and it is, therefore, very difficult to form a considered opinion upon the whole Budget.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I have one personal explanation to offer regarding what has been said by the previous speaker. He has said that I told him in some conversation that he represented the Sonthals. This statement might be misunderstood by the people of Dinajpur, because they are not Sonthals. What I said is that there are a lot of Sonthals in Dinajpur and he might advocate their cause in this Council.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: I had no desire to take any part in the discussion of this the first Budget of this new Legislative Council, except that of listening and learning, but I have heard several remarks in this Council, particularly from Babu Surendra Nath Mullick, along with many others, who have inferred that gross partiality has been shown to Europeans and point to the grants given to Kalimpong (Rs. 80,000), Kurseong (Rs. 40,000) and the Loreto Convent (Rs. 20,000). That means about Rs. 2 lakhs out of Rs. 16 lakhs or one-eighth has been given to the European representative schools. Now, Sir, under these circumstances I cannot remain silent longer. I am absolutely impartial in this matter, and, like Mr. Stark, wish to see justice done. I want to see fair play and like to get to bed-rock. With that object in view I would like to know what proportion of the income-tax is paid by the European British tax-payer. Perhaps the Hon'ble Member for Finance would answer. For the purpose of my criticisms these figures are necessary. I do not like to take up the time of this Council, and I repeat that I had no desire to take any part in the Budget discussion so long as absolute impartiality was shown.

Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED: I regret that I cannot congratulate the Finance Member upon the Budget that has been presented to the House. In going through the Budget what strikes me most is the poor provision for the subjects under the charge of the Ministers and the diversion for general purposes of funds earmarked for special purposes. I, being a mufassal member, turn over the pages of the Budget to see what provision has been made for mufassal towns and villages in the way of improving education, sanitation and medical relief; and I am forced to say that I turn over page after page only to be disappointed. Before going into details, I must give expression

to a feeling, which has gained favour in certain quarters, to the effect that the pay of the executive Judicial officers, members of the Provincial Educational Service and of members belonging to other higher branches of service has been tremendously enhanced to leave too small an amount of money in the hands of Ministers to make the Reforms Scheme a success. Though I myself do not share this view, yet it cannot be gainsaid that the salaries of these officers have been disproportionately enhanced. Coming to details, let us see what provision has been made for improving primary education in the mufassal. We find that Rs. 40,000 has been provided for the enhancement of the pay of teachers in primary schools and Rs. 1,00,000 for primary education in the mufassal. I am not unmindful of the fact that on page 102 of the detailed statement of the Budget estimate Rs. 24,84,000 has been provided for grants-in-aid to primary schools. Those members of the House who are members of the District Board know that this amount is the yearly grant which is paid through district boards to teachers of primary schools, and this sum, when divided, falls to the lot of each primary teacher of Bengal in the shape of a monthly sum not exceeding Rs. 2-8 in the average. What a sad picture indeed to see that the persons, who will teach our village children, get a pay of Rs. 2-8 per month. Sir, I should request you to bring to your mind the pay that members of this House pay to their sweepers. The sweepers, I dare say, get more than double the pay of our primary school teachers. When Government has been spending so much money for bettering the prospects of the educational staff of Government schools, when Government has been pouring oil upon the oily heads of officers belonging to the higher services of the Education Department, we were hoping that Government will make some provision for enabling the poor teachers to keep their bodies and souls together, but to our bitter disappointment we find that, while for improving the pay of the teachers of only two schools, namely, the Victoria and Dow Hill Schools at Kurseong, Rs. 40,000 has been provided, the same amount has been provided for improving the pay of teachers of primary schools throughout the whole presidency of Bengal. In this connection, I beg to draw your attention to the fact that a sum of Rs. 4,00,000 has been provided to give, as the Budget says, some relief to those who are drawing less than Rs. 50 per month as pension. Is it because superannuation allowance and pension is a reserved subject that an additional Rs. 4,00,000 has been provided under this head, and is it because primary education is a transferred subject that Rs. 40,000 only has been provided for the enhancement of pay of primary school teachers? I do not grudge these Rs. 4 lakhs being paid to the pensioners, but what I complain of is this, that practically nothing has been done to ameliorate the miserable condition of these primary school teachers who are certainly deserving of more sympathy than these pensioners, most of whom are better off than these teachers. While speaking on

the subject, I intend to draw the attention of the Minister in charge of Education to the deplorable condition of primary school buildings in the mufassal. It has been the policy of Government to construct a model primary school building within each panchayati union, and a good number of such school buildings have been constructed, and, in order to keep them in good repair, Government pays certain amounts to the district board, and sometimes some district boards do not get any amount at all. The Rajshahi District Board, which used to get Rs. 6,000 a year has not as yet got anything this year, I daresay that the amounts which other district boards are getting are too inadequate to meet the increasing demands. In the detailed statement of the Budget, under the heading Building grants for colleges and schools I find a lump provision of Rs. 3,25,000, but do not find anywhere whether any portion of the sum would be devoted to grants for primary school buildings, and if so, how much? I hope that the Minister in charge of Education will enlighten us on the subject, and that, in future, the grant for primary school buildings may be shown separately so that we may compare the figures with those of the previous year.

The reformed Madrasahs, having provided secular education with religious education, have found favour with the Muhammadan people, and as far as my information goes, many junior Madrasahs of the reformed type have been started in the mufassal; and it is only fair and just that Government should help these institutions by giving suitable grants-in-aid. But under the heading Madrasahs the same amount has been provided for the next year as in this year.

Leaving aside the question of education, let us taken into consideration the condition of the dispensaries in mufassal towns and villages and the provision made for them in the Budget. As far as I know, in every headquarters of the district, there is a Government assistant surgeon in charge of the dispensary, which is generally maintained by the municipality. This assistant surgeon has to do all the legal medico work of Government, and some of the municipalities have been fortunate to get themselves exempted from paying contribution towards the pay of the assistant surgeon; but, in the case of others, this contribution, which is about Rs. 3,000 a year, is being realised with all rigidity, notwithstanding all entreaties to the contrary. The price of medicines and of diet of patients has considerably increased, and all these municipalities find it too difficult to enable their dispensaries to make both ends meet. With the introduction of the Reformed Scheme, we were hoping that some relief will be given to those municipalities by exempting them from the payment of this contribution, but to our utter disappointment, we find that the old amount of Rs. 71,500 has been put down as the amount recoverable from municipalities and district boards for assistant and sub-assistant surgeons. It is a strange irony of fate to see that, while it has been found possible to provide Rs. 90,000 for the revision of the pay of sub-assistant and military

assistant surgeons and Rs. 1,95,000 for expenses in connection with the schools of tropical medicine and hygiene, a noble sum of Rs. 15,000 only has been provided as the grant to mufassal dispensaries; and Government has thought fit to insist upon the contribution of the above-mentioned sum of Rs. 71,500 from municipalities and district boards, knowing full well that for want of funds many beds in mufassal dispensaries are lying vacant; and proper diet and medicine cannot be given to patients. We hope that the Minister in charge of the dispensaries will exempt the municipalities from paying the contribution, or, if this is not acceptable, will allow those municipalities to appoint their own doctors, which at present, they are not allowed to do. In that case, they will be able to secure the services of equally competent doctors by paying half the amount they are now required to pay by way of contribution.

Coming to the head of Agriculture, I find that it has been found possible to get money for the appointment of a Deputy Director of Sericulture and a Deputy Director of Agriculture, at an additional cost of Rs. 17,000, and seven sets of quarters for the assistants of the Dacca Farm, at a cost of Rs. 40,000; but a paltry sum of Rs. 5,000 has been provided for the establishment of five farms at five different centres and no attention has been paid to the resolution, which was carried by an overwhelming majority in this House the other day, namely, the establishment of an Agricultural School at Rajshahi.

The Council at this stage adjourned for 15 minutes.

After the adjournment.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: In every country, the Budget is generally called the people's Budget, but here, before us, a Budget has been presented, which cannot, by any stretch of imagination, be called the people's Budget. The Hon'ble Finance Member has presented the Government side, but Sir, the people's side—the tax-payers' side, has also got to be considered. That side is comprised in the following three questions: whether the tax-payer can afford to pay, whether the items are absolutely necessary, and lastly, whether the tax-payer is getting his money's worth. I mention these views because the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr has said that the method of making a Budget is to take up the total expenses that the various departments require, and then to have them checked by the Finance Department. But how does the Finance Department check them? The Finance Department considers mainly the technical question as to whether the various departments will be able to spend the amounts that are going to be allotted to them. It seems to me, Sir, that this is rather a wrong view to take. The question should rather be, whether the sums allotted are absolutely necessary, and not whether they can be spent. This Council can only justify its existence if it does its duty as trustees of the tax-payers' money; and I request all members to judge this Budget from the tax-payers' point of view, when the question of voting for grants is brought forward.

I am sorry, Sir, that I cannot share the extraordinary optimism, with which the Hon'ble Finance Member has tried to meet this difficult situation. As has already been pointed out by several members, the deficit of Rs. 2 crores has been sought to be met from the reserve balances, most of which are no reserve balances at all. You have heard, Sir, how a great deal of it had been set apart for nation-building purposes, viz., education and sanitation. We have often heard it said in this Council and outside that many educational and sanitary measures could not be given effect to for want of funds. But what do we find here? A sum of Rs. 1½ crores had been allotted by the Government of India to this Government for the purposes of sanitation and education, but this Government was unable to spend that money. What can we think of a Government which, having funds at its disposal, cannot spend them on education and sanitation, and now comes forward with a proposal to spend the money for other purposes? Is this the prelude to the Reforms that we are going to have? I hope that this Council will take a very strong stand and refuse to vote grants in a Budget like this.

We come now to the details of the Budget. As has been pointed out by my friend, Babu Annada Charan Dutta, on the revenue side, we find that the Finance Member anticipates an increase of Rs. 8 lakhs under Excise. This is a view which cannot be justified by present events. It is no use shutting our eyes to events that are taking place around us. The other day, I think, a Government official had some applications before him for refund of license fees, on the ground that the sale of country spirits had fallen very low. The new anti-drink campaign tends to rival the Pussyfoot movement of America, and I think, Sir, that it would be unwise to provide for any increase in Excise revenue this year.

Then, Sir, there is the heading under Stamps. What has been the actual state of affairs during the current year? There has been a decrease of Rs. 10 lakhs from the estimated Budget owing to trade depression. I submit, Sir, that trade conditions are still very bad, and threaten to continue so. The money market is still very tight, and I cannot understand how the Finance Member can hope to realise the excess of Rs. 13 lakhs that he has provided for under the heading of Stamps on the revenue side. There is also the movement to decrease litigation, which will naturally affect this revenue.

To come now to the expenditure side, I do not know where to begin. The details have not been furnished to us, as was pointed out by Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri yesterday, and it is, therefore, impossible to take up all the points. As for example, on page 111 of the White Book, we find that Rs. 7·8 lakhs have been provided under Public Health, but the detailed account in the main Budget gives a statement covering only Rs. 3·2 lakhs. We do not know how this balance is going to be spent, so we cannot discuss the allotment.

A sum of about Rs. 70 lakhs has been provided for improving the pay of some of the subordinate services, ministerial staffs, menials, etc. I

the position of disadvantage in which this Council has been placed. These subordinate and low-paid services ought to have been taken up first. They should have been provided for during the year that is coming to a close this month. The question of higher services should have been brought into this new Budget. Then this Council would have known what to say about the inexcusable and extravagant method of paying Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000 to individual officers of the higher grades as retrospective pay. Retrospective pay indeed, while the low-paid officers are starving! A number of schemes has been given effect to during the current year, which might easily have waited for another year, and now the Finance Member tries to console us with words: "A very large part of the expenses had been incurred before the present Council came into being, for which this Council has no responsibility." This is very poor consolation indeed! This is just my complaint. Our hands have been tied without our consent, and we are now asked to look cheerful and pay.

I shall now enumerate a few items of expenditure, and seriously request the Council to consider whether these items cannot be postponed till financial conditions improve. First, there is a proposal for the new settlement operations to be started at Khulna, Murshidabad and Birbhum at considerable expense. It is not possible to get the exact figures, on account of the way in which the Budget has been prepared, but I think that the amount is considerable and these operations can certainly be postponed.

Then, Sir, there are the partitions of the districts of Midnapore and Mymensingh; I think these will cost Rs. 13 lakhs; these can be postponed till next year, by which time we shall be able to judge if these partitions are at all necessary.

Then there is an item of Rs. 2½ lakhs for the resumption of land at Kalimpong. This is not a very urgent matter and can safely be kept in abeyance.

Then there is an item of Rs. 5 lakhs for the Alms House for the District Charitable Society. This can be easily postponed.

Then there is the Police Department. Much has been said about the extra expense incurred in this Department; I need not go into details. I shall try to take them up in the amending motions which I shall bring up on the 4th. The additional police, for the Public Vehicles Department, is absolutely unnecessary; the activities of these gentlemen, as is known to this Council, were the cause of the recent taxi strike. I think we might rest content with what we have just now.

Then Rs. 88,000 has been provided for the price of a steam-launch for the police to replace the launch *Juliet* taken over by the military authorities. We do not know why Government has been saddled with this extra expense, and why this launch has been taken away. Without this information we cannot criticise this item.

Under major works of the Public Works Department, which contains such items as acquisition of land for married sergeants' quarters, for extension of police hospital at Bhowanipore, and quarters for an additional District Judge at Barisal, and so forth, there are provisions for Rs. 20 lakhs which can certainly be taken up at a future time when funds permit.

There is the Grand Trunk Canal scheme, which is going to cost the large sum of over Rs. 3 crores. A scheme, which is going to cost such a large amount of money, ought to be well considered before it is undertaken; this Council is not convinced of the utility of this scheme and I think, therefore, that it should be postponed.

In view of the deficit in the Budget, I was going to request that the Ministers, as the people's representatives, should take half pay, but I got the greatest shock of my life when I received intimation that the Ministers' pay was not going to be voted. Is it fair to this Council, is it legal to say that the pay of the Ministers who are in charge of the transferred subjects, is not going to be voted? This is an irony of fate indeed!

These are only some of the items which give us a total of nearly a crore of rupees.

The Hon'ble Member has said that owing to war conditions only urgent and inevitable expenditure was permitted during the last four years; but I submit, Sir, that the peace conditions are not a whit better than the war conditions, so far as finance is concerned. If we could do without these items for the last four years, I do not see why we cannot wait for another year or more. I beg to suggest that only urgent and unavoidable matters be taken up now, and that a revised Budget be presented before this Council in the autumn. If trade conditions improve, and, if we are able to get our just dues from the Government of India by that time, we shall have ample opportunity of sanctioning further grants then. Let us not go ahead of our resources and make the Reforms a failure.

Unless Government goes on and proceeds on these lines, I am afraid we may have to go to the painful necessity of refusing the whole Budget *in toto*.

Then, Sir, there has been a proposal to borrow money. Is this the time to borrow money? The state of the money market is very well known. The bank rate is very high, and we know the very low price of the 3 and 3½ per cent. Government paper. If we launch on a new loan, I am afraid we shall not be able to raise a loan at less than 6½ per cent. interest. The holders of the 3 per cent. and 3½ per cent. paper will be stranded. Loan at such high rates will be most unbusinesslike.

I should like to say a few words with regard to what Mr. Stark said to-day. He said that we are foolish enough to think that one lakh is the only amount which has been provided for primary education. We

know full well that Rs. 24,00,000 has been provided for primary education. But, as has been pointed out by one of the speakers, this sum is not for the present expansion of primary education, which ought to be taken up, and for which Rs. 1,00,000 is very small. I submit, Sir, that the members are quite justified and right in the attitude they have taken up.

Then, Sir, Mr. Stark has said that a lot of money has been raised by public subscription for several schemes by Anglo-Indian communities. But that is not the question before the Council. The question is whether the Government is justified in spending such large sums for these communities. I do not find Mr. Stark here, or I would have liked to ask him how much of the subscription of Rs. 9,00,000 the railway companies have paid?

Mr. Forrester asked a question as to how much income-tax had been paid by certain communities. I may, however, tell him that income-tax is an Imperial revenue and does not concern the Bengal Government at all.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: It is unfortunate that the Reforms Scheme should begin with a heavy deficit of Rs. 2,08,31,000. I cannot congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Member on his improvisation of squaring up the Budget by drawing on the heavy opening balance of Rs. 3,44,79,000. The opening balance was earmarked for certain purposes. Is it fair and justifiable, Sir, to swallow the heavy balance towards general purposes without making adequate provision for important items? I submit that the Finance Member should have minimised the expenses and postponed some payments of loans and other improvements, which had been in contemplation and under consideration for several years past. As a matter of fact, we find that the old leaky ship of the Government has been repaired with such heavy slabs and nails that it is about to sink, and sink it will, unless the Imperial Government shows us some liberality.

Sir, much has been said about the individual items, and I need not say anything about them. But we have found one thing and that is that, when there was a proposal for curtailing the salaries of Ministers, they were very anxious to retain their salaries in order to maintain their prestige—but prestige they have. What we however expected was that, when they were anxious for their prestige, they would show the same amount of anxiety to have adequate provision made for giving effect to their proposals and for giving due share to the subjects in their charge. We have been totally disappointed to find that very paltry sums have been allocated to the several subjects in their charge. In the mufassal fell diseases, such as cholera and malaria, are making havoc on the people, and we find that nothing has been provided for checking the onslaught of these fell diseases. We see that the people in the mufassal suffer most for want of drinking water. Of course, the surrender of the Public Works cess to the district boards has improved the

finances of the boards, but the amount is too small, when we consider the needs of the mufassal areas. You know, Sir, that the whole country goes under water during the rains, and the whole area is contaminated by diffusion of poison pent up in *doras* and pools during the dry season. Even then "water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink." After the annual bath in the rains, the country begins to bask in the sun; and by this time of the year the children of the soil are running mad from want of water. The people who are accustomed to a profuse supply of water can hardly form an idea of the magnitude of the want in the mufassal, where the people consider it a bounty to have water from a tank, where a Calcutta gentleman would not allow his dog to sip in. These conditions in the mufassal remind me of the well-known lines of the Persian poet:—

Sabàe tarik, howle raad
Barànu-i-barin tundi,
Kuja purwa-i-mà dàrund
Sarmastàn-i-mahfilha.

This means:—Here is dark night—deafening sounds of thunder—furious rains—what care for us have the people who are carousing in the Assemblies.

A few months ago there was a circular issued from Government that the district boards should not spend their recurring income over the water-supply, for which they should raise loans. If they have to provide drinking water by raising loans, it is bound to be futile in view of the vast demand. I know that the district boards are not unmindful of the interests of the mufassal, and they are spending sums for the supply of water for the rural areas, but these are too small. The people in the mufassal pay the major portion of the first revenue of the province, and they are the people who contribute largely towards the export duty on jute and stamps which items go to swell the financial revenue of the province, and Government should provide largely for the material prosperity and the health of those people. We find here that we are quite disappointed at the grants for education, but we have been reminded that we have got Rs. 24 lakhs for primary education, and we know that this sum goes to swell the income of the district boards. We find that the teachers in girls' schools and *maktabs* are satisfied with an annual income of Rs. 18, which you even cannot offer to a durwan. For a month even I submit that the provision of one lakh is too small, and that the people, who give a large portion of the first revenue of the province, are entitled to better treatment at the hands of Government.

Then, Sir, as regards medical aid, there was a resolution moved a few days ago that every thana should have a charitable dispensary, half the cost being borne by Government and half by the district boards. In regard to that resolution I was the only non-official chairman

of a district board, who voted for it. The first necessity in the mufassal is the eradication of malaria. Every year after the months of October and November, we meet our friends stricken with malaria, and malaria, cholera and small-pox are our never-failing friends, who are very ready to relieve us of all our anxieties in this world. Where is the money to meet these expenses? We are told that district boards have got sufficient money. I am sorry, Sir, that the district boards are content with one anna in the rupee of the revenue. They have got incomes from pounds and ferries yet the revenue is too small to meet the ordinary expenses for the charges that have been placed under them.

Then, Sir, we find in the Budget that no provision has been made for meeting the demands of the district boards. I am proud to say that the district of Pabna is the only district board which spends the largest percentage of the expenditure on education of all the boards of the province. The average percentage is something like 23·5 per cent., whereas the Pabna district board spends about 38·7 per cent. During the time of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Government there was a programme to provincialise all the technical schools of the province and some of the schools, namely, Rangpur, Bakarganj and Bogra were provincialised. I submit that the Rangpur and Bakarganj district boards have an income three times as much as the district board of Pabna, but the latter is left to bear the entire burden, the grant previously enjoyed being stopped. I therefore submit that this district board deserves sympathetic consideration from the provincial Government.

I shall lay the correspondence which has passed on the subject before the Council. On the annulment of the partition our claims have been ignored and we have been left to ourselves. On the 28th March, 1913, the District Board of Pabna applied to Government through the Divisional Commissioner for a grant-in-aid, and the Commissioner, in his memorandum No. 676, dated the 19th June, 1913, forwarded an extract from a letter No. 732, dated the 11th June, from the Inspector of Schools, Rajshahi Division, to the effect that the authorities of the school may be pleased to move the Government for the provincialisation of the school. "I beg to propose that the Pabna Technical School be provincialised." That is the remark made by the Inspector of Schools. After this, the district board, in its letter No. 1011, dated the 22nd December, 1913, forwarded the board's resolution of a meeting held on the 16th December, 1913, to the effect that the board approved, with certain modifications, the scheme proposed by Mr. C. I. Henderson, Head Master, Dacca School of Engineering, recommending provincialisation of the school. Extract from Mr. Henderson's scheme regarding the Pabna Technical School is as below: "I may mention that the new Pabna Technical School scheme is the largest and most important yet proposed for any of the Bengal mufassal technical schools, and will come next to Sibpur and Dacca in point of importance." Now, Sir, the irony of fate is, that not only have we been refused provincialisation, but

the grants-in-aid have been stopped from the year 1913, and the grant of Rs. 1,440 has been stopped since then.

For the construction of the new technical school, out of an estimate of Rs. 77,935 the Government granted Rs. 50,000 on condition that the district board should bear the rest of the cost. Owing to the rise in the price of materials, and new lands being required, the district board has completed the building at a cost of Rs. 87,918 and will have to pay the additional cost of Rs 1,500. Thus, in all, the board bore and is ready to bear a cost of Rs. 39,419, though the original condition was for Rs. 27,935 only. The district board did not grudge that but the Government did not pay a single cowrie. The district board is bearing the cost of maintenance of the school amounting on an average to Rs. 15,157 per annum, while the district board gets an income of on an average of Rs. 5,561 from the school fees and the sale of manufactured articles. You will see, Sir, that the district board has been imparting instruction to the students and undertaking all these things, but Government have refused to give them any help.

The district board by letter No. 6 of the 1st April, 1919, addressed the Commissioner of the Division, requesting the provincialisation of the school; and till provincialisation to grant a monthly contribution of Rs. 500. The Commissioner asked for a reference to the original memorandum with which the original proposal was submitted to Government, but no reply has been received. After that there was a conference held at Rangpur——

The PRESIDENT: You have exceeded the time-limit.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: I have nearly finished and I hope, Sir, you will allow me to go on for a few moments.

The PRESIDENT: I am afraid I cannot allow you to go on any longer, as there is only time to finish one more speaker before I adjourn.

Maulvi ABDUL KARIM: I deeply regret that I find myself unable to congratulate the Government very much upon the very first Budget presented to the Council under the Reforms Act. I fully appreciate the difficulties under which the Hon'ble Finance Member laboured in manipulating the figures and in making out the most of a bad job. He has no doubt done the utmost that could be done under the circumstances. The difficulties brought about by the financial settlement of Lord Meston's Committee and the extra expenditure entailed by the changes under the Reforms Act were no doubt very great. But my regret is that much of these difficulties were foreseen and could easily have been partially, if not wholly, provided against. The economic pressure had been felt for a long time and the Government ought to have been fully warned of the difficulties ahead. The total estimated receipts have been taken at a little over Rs. 9 crores, and the total expenditure at little over Rs. 11 crores, leaving a deficit of over Rs. 2 crores in the Budget and

I shall not be surprised if at the end of nine months this deficit is actually found to exceed this estimated amount. This deficit has been sought to be met from the swollen balance of the previous years, which again has been considered to be an altogether unsound policy. The appalling deficit in the Bengal Budget was clearly foreshadowed by the Meston settlement. It did not come to the Government as a surprise. But, what did the Government do at such a juncture to provide against such an appalling deficit? They apparently went on expanding their expenditure altogether, regardless of the situation with which they were faced, as if their expending capacity was as elastic as in previous normal years. Take for instance—on the very eve of the Reforms and with the dismal shadow of an appalling deficit falling before them they hastened to increase the pay of the Provincial Executive Service. With the same disregard they have come to increase not only the expenditure for the Judicial Service, which accounts for no less than Rs. 9 lakhs in the expenditure under Judicial administration, but also of the Excise Department, at a cost of nearly Rs. 4 lakhs (Rs. 3,85,000). All these improvements, even if they were necessary, ought to have been suspended, pending the changes that were bound to come with the introduction of the Reforms and the operation of Lord Meston's financial settlement. And now the result is that the expenditure under the reserved heads as swollen to 65 per cent. leaving only 35 per cent for the ministerial departments. Thus the Ministers are handicapped and they are forced to cut their coat according to their cloth. The Government has no doubt earned considerable popularity with a certain section of the services, but the unfortunate Ministers, who should have been given a wider opportunity to give a good account of themselves, have been driven into a corner, where they would be bound to put up with considerable discontent and adverse criticism. This is a very lamentable feature of the Budget. The salaries of the ministerial officers and the menial servants have long been the subject of bitter complaints, and I am of opinion that their hard case should have received consideration long before the case of the superior officers, to which I have already referred. The increment given to the latter goes to swell their accounts with the Savings Bank, but the poor earnings of the former go to the grocer's shop, to which their chronic indebtedness drags on from month to month. In fact the Reforms and the improvements seem to me to have begun at the wrong end. I welcome the provision of Rs. 45 lakhs to meet the case of these hard-worked ministerial officers and Rs. 3½ lakhs for the improvement of the pay and prospect of equally ill-paid members of the Subordinate Educational Service, although I am not quite sure if the latter provision will bring in adequate relief to the poor teachers, who have been so lamentably neglected for a long time. I now come to draw attention to a few of the new items of expenditure under the Budget. Foremost among these the increased provision of Rs. 27 lakhs for the improvement of the Police looms very large. Not long ago considerable expenditure had been incurred for the

improvement of this service, but even conceding that further improvement is necessary, I would urge their suspension or curtailment in this year of extreme difficulty and at the very outset of the reformed administration. The contemplated improvement can safely be deferred for at least one year to enable the Government fairly to maintain its equilibrium. I have noticed that a provision has been made of Rs. 3,18,000 for raising house-rent and acquiring land for the sergeants of the Calcutta Police (35,000+2,83,000) and of Rs. 2,75,000 for the revision of the rates of pay of the Inspectors of Bengal Police. I confess I quite fail to understand why specially the first elaborate provision has been found so urgent at this moment. These may very well be deferred for the present. I also take exception to the large increase made in the Secretariat establishment. If an additional Secretary be at all necessary, I do not see why a number of Deputy Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries should have been found so urgent as to be incorporated in the Budget under the present financial difficulty. In this year of hardship there is naturally a cry for increment all round. But at a time, when we cannot make the two ends of the Budget meet, an altogether novel act of generosity has been shown by the Government by providing Rs. 4 lakhs for increment of small pensions. I am not without sympathy for these pension-holders, but there are equal if not greater hardships of a vast population outside the pale of public service, and no Government can by doles of grant bring relief to all its suffering subjects, and while there are pressing demands for the nation-building departments, which we cannot meet, these new and unexpected and unurged-for provisions should not have been gratuitously offered. Let us be just before we can be generous.

Now, if all these items to which I have drawn attention were to be considered and cut down, I think a savings of nearly Rs. 50 lakhs might be obtained,, which will be available to the transferred subjects. This additional grant will certainly strengthen the hands of the popular Ministers to a considerable extent and enable them to put forth some substantial work under the coming Budget.

Against all this I beg to point out that a very small provision has been made for primary education in the mufassal. One lakh of rupees under this head does not bear testimony to our earnest desire to improve and develop primary education in a vast province like Bengal. It is notable that a provision of over Rs. 3 lakhs has been found for the improvement of site and establishment of only 4 schools in Calcutta and 2 schools in the hills. I find no indication in the Budget that it is contemplated to take any steps towards the inauguration of a system of vocational education, for which a resolution was recently adopted in this Council, and some sort of assurance also given by the Hon'ble Minister for Education. I do not see that any appreciable provision has been made for water supply and drainage in the rural areas. Vast projects may be

made for drainage and sanitation, but they cannot be effected within a short time, and their efficacy, however great, cannot be either understood or appreciated by the masses, who urgently require immediate relief in the vicinity of their homes. There are loud cries for drainage and sanitation throughout the province, and you cannot expect the suffering population to be satisfied with the prospective results of a Grand Canal or the purchase of costly dredgers (Rs. 90,83,000) while rivers and channels, khals and tanks in the remote villages are being silted up and the scourge of malaria is spreading fast and wide amidst decimated areas. I earnestly suggest that large grants should be made to district boards, municipalities and unions to bring home to the people the attention we are giving to their hard lot and harder conditions in life. It has been said by the Hon'ble the Finance Member that "agricultural developments also have received adequate attention." All that is found in the Budget are the creation of a few new posts at a cost of nearly half a lakh of rupees and grant of Rs. 60,000 for distribution of seeds. I leave the discussion of what the department has so long achieved for a future occasion, but I must suggest in short that it should be possible for the Minister of Agriculture and Industries to make suitable grants for actually introducing better methods of cultivation and for the improvement of that important branch—Co-operative, which seeks to solve the problem of agricultural indebtedness of the country. For all these purposes the transferred subjects should account for much larger proportion of revenue than a mere 35 per cent.

I notice with satisfaction that the Government have moved the Government of India for a fair share of the percentage of income-tax recommended by the Joint Parliamentary Committee, and I also hope the Government will strongly urge for the export duty on jute, which is our own special product, being surrendered to Bengal. And I urge that any relief, that may be obtained from these sources, should be given over to the nation-building departments

In conclusion, I desire to point out that there is a strong feeling in this country for the removal of the triple control of the Revenue Department. Bombay and Madras, where there is no permanent settlement, are carrying, on their work with only dual control, but unfortunately for Bengal, which is a permanently-settled province, a chain of three successive authorities, viz., the Collector, the Commissioner and the Board of Revenue is held to be wholly indispensable. Government would do well to take note of this fact and take the initiative with their own hands to do away with the unnecessary intermediate authority which involves an expenditure of over Rs. 5 lakhs annually, and for which an additional provision of Rs. 75,000 is found even in the present Budget.

Adjournment.

The Council was adjourned till 3 P.M. on Wednesday, the 2nd March, 1921, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 2nd March, 1921, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 93 nominated and elected members.

The Budget, 1921-22.

The discussion on the Budget was resumed.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): Order! Order! Babu Amulya Dhone Addy.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: It appears that the Government of Bengal has already laid down a principle that primary education in Bengal should not only be compulsory but also free, and I had expected that the Government would be pleased to provide substantial grants for primary education in Bengal. I am really astonished to find that a very small grant has been provided for that purpose. Sir, in order to improve the material condition of the people of Bengal, it is absolutely necessary that we should develop our industries. We should encourage agriculture, commerce and industry in Bengal and that is the reason why I had expected that, with the co-operation of the Ministers, or in accordance with the advice of the Ministers, Government would be pleased to provide a substantial grant for the establishment of agricultural schools, commercial schools and industrial schools in Bengal. I am strongly of opinion that there should be at least one agricultural school with a farm attached to it in every district of Bengal, one commercial school with a museum attached to it in every division of Bengal, and one industrial school with a workshop attached to it in every division of Bengal, and I had therefore expected that a substantial grant would be provided in the Budget. But I find that a very small grant has been provided for the establishment and maintenance of agricultural schools in Bengal. So far as industrial schools are concerned, I find on page 96 of the Budget that Rs. 7,36,000 was provided in the Budget estimate for 1920-21 for technical and industrial schools. I am really sorry to find, as appears from the revised estimate for that year, that that amount has been reduced to Rs. 1,33,000. I am extremely sorry to find in the Budget estimate for the ensuing year under the heading of Technical and Industrial Schools that no provision has been made for them. Is that the way, Sir, to encourage industrial

education in Bengal? I am sure that in this way we cannot expect the development of industries in Bengal. It may be said that we have got a deficit Budget. It may be said that, though the closing balance is Rs. 52,00,000, we have got a deficit Budget. The expenditure is more than the revenue by Rs. 2,09,00,000, and therefore it may be said that Government is not now in a position to provide sufficient funds, though they are highly necessary, for the encouragement of primary education and technical education. That is the reason why I beg to suggest that we should try our best to curtail other expenditure, so far as would be practicable.

It appears from page 35 of the report that Rs. 65,000 has been provided for fees for the design for the widening of the Howrah Bridge. So far as I remember, while I was a member of the Calcutta Port Trust some years ago—the Port Commissioners spent Rs. 35,000 for a design for the widening of the Howrah bridge and they have already got a design and estimate for it. I do not know what the revised estimate for the widening of the Howrah Bridge is. I presume it is three crores of rupees. I beg to submit, Sir, that it is not necessary to incur any expenditure at all for the Howrah bridge not to speak of a design, because we are not in a position to commit ourselves to a scheme which will cost us three crores of rupees. I admit that the Howrah bridge should be widened, but I do not think that the matter is so urgent as to commit ourselves to this expenditure at present

It appears from the Budget, and it has been observed by the other members of the Council, that Rs. 2,85,000 has been provided for the acquisition of land for married sergeants' quarters, Rs. 20,000 for their house allowance and Rs. 1,25,000 for the town police of the 24-Parganas and Hooghly. I beg to submit, Sir, that this expenditure does not appear to me to be very urgent, and it can be postponed for the time being. It further appears that Rs 75,000 has been provided for a grant to the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institute, and Rs. 10,000 for the purchase of their furniture. I do not think that it is very urgent, if at all necessary. Sir, it also appears from page 45 of the Budget that Rs. 90,000 has been provided for the band establishment It appears that in the year 1920-21, Rs. 41,750 were provided for that establishment and now it has been increased to Rs. 80,000. What is the reason? It appears that the price of the necessaries of life has gone up. I submit, Sir, that it is just the contrary. It has gone down and it is expected to go down still further. But, notwithstanding that fact, the Government has provided an increment of about Rs. 40,000 on that ground. I do not think it is necessary. I also find that Rs. 4,25,000 has been provided for a lunatic asylum in Ranchi and Rs. 1,75,000 for the European Asylum. It also appears that Rs. 20,000 has been provided for the Victoria School at Kurseong, and another Rs. 20,000 for the Dow Hill School at Kurseong and Rs. 80,000 for the St. Andrew's Colonial Homes at Kalimpong, and Rs. 70,000 for the building of a

European school. I submit that these works should be postponed till the financial condition improves. Sir, we are afraid that within a year or two the Government will feel the necessity for levying further taxation, and therefore, I think, Government would not be justified in sanctioning these grants at present.

I come to another item. It appears from page 56 that Rs. 70,00,000 has been provided for the Grand Trunk Canal. So far as I remember, when the original scheme was placed before the public for opinion, the total estimate was a crore of rupees. The alignment has since been changed. It has been shifted from the southern to the northern suburbs of Calcutta. I admit that this is a very important measure, I admit that it would improve the trade of Calcutta with the Eastern districts of Bengal, but I am afraid that the revised estimate would be prohibitive. We are not in a position to commit ourselves to that scheme. We are not in a position to spend three crores of rupees for the execution of this work, and, so long as our financial condition does not improve, we would not be justified in committing ourselves to this scheme and in incurring expenditure of Rs. 70 lakhs this year for that project.

Mr. F. A. LARMOUR: I do not propose to address the Council at any length and I am rather pleased to think that the members will not have to hear the tinkle of that musical bell on the Registrar's table by the time I have finished. I am unfortunately not blessed with the power of eloquence, which has characterised many of the speakers, who have preceded me. Sir, I am not going to complain that I have not had sufficient time to study the Budget. It has been in my hands for the last six or eight days. What I do try to think is that this Council has only been in existence for a matter of six weeks, and I consider that the Budget, as placed before us, is all that we can expect and all that we can hope for. I have listened with considerable attention to many of the speakers, who have preceded me, and it has struck me that the whole tone of their speeches has been one of destructive criticism. Not one of them has offered any suggestion as to construction. I do not ask, nor do I expect for one moment that our criticisms will necessitate the scrapping of the whole Budget and that the Government will listen to all the suggestions made by the different members of this Council and frame a new Budget entirely in accordance with the suggestions offered by individual members. I paid careful attention to the first three or four speeches, that were made, and everything that need be made in the way of destructive criticism was already made by them and all the criticisms that have been made by the later speakers are simply accentuating those criticisms I hold no special brief for the defence of the Government and I hold no brief for the defence of the Ministers or the Executive Councillors, but, Sir, I have been surprised at the utterances of some of the members. Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, than whom, I take it, there is no more genuine or staunch patriot in

Bengal, has had his words flung back at him in utterances which he made when he stood on public platforms as a reformer. Sir, I feel, and I know that every member of this Council feels, that when he gets into a certain office, whatever it may be, political or commercial, his opinions change, and he cannot say from the Government chair what he would say as a political man advocating the best interests of his country. Sir, I yield to none in my love for India and in my love particularly for Bengal. I have been here for nearly 50 years and for 50 years more I hope to remain. My greatest friends, and my most staunch and intimate friends, are amongst the Bengalis, and I am here to-day from a sense of duty to the country, at an age when I am entitled to peace and retirement. I am afraid, as I have said before, I am not blessed with the powers of eloquence like some members of this Council, and I have to fall back for assistance on what is called manuscript eloquence—I look in vain for any promise of sane, consistent and constructive policy on the part of this Council. Mr. S. N. Mullick sees in the Budget which is before the House the old enemies of the people—enemies which the Ministers should have crushed the very day, on which they entered upon their offices—rearing their unhallowed heads, he will forgive me if some of us see in the Budget debate ominous signs indicating that the same fatal weakness, which has retarded social and political development in the past, has not yet been eliminated. In the old days before the Morley-Minto reforms, and even during the currency of the Morley-Minto reforms epoch the Government having drawn up the Budget the Council had practically to accept it. The responsibility was the Government's, and the Budget debate was a rhetorical competition in which those, who could abuse Government loudest, were accounted the victors. Some of the speeches, to which we have listened in the course of this debate, suggest that the old mentality has not yet given way to that wider and saner outlook, which ought to follow on increased responsibility.

It is up to this Council to vote the supplies, without which the administration cannot be carried on. But every game has its rules, rules which are the embodiment of those conditions, under which alone the game can be played. What are the conditions of the game which is just starting? What is the Budget of the Government? How is the administration of a Province or country to be carried on? The first condition is continuity. The only way in which you can dispense with continuity is by a revolution. Some prominent persons in India seem to want a revolution, but I gather that the view is not shared by any one in this Council.

What was then the position on the 3rd January last? A new era was inaugurated, but the administration had to be carried on. If the Budget for 1921-22 had not been already drafted, we could not now be discussing ways and means for the coming year. What did the Council expect the Ministers to do? By drawing on balances the estimate was

so framed that the total additional expenditure during the coming year both capital and recurring had to be got within Rs. 2,00,00,000. I can imagine the programme of expenditure which confronted the Ministers and Members of the Executive Council. Apparently it is the view of many that the Ministers should have brought the administration to a standstill, unless and until large sums were made available for certain forms of expenditure. Each Member has advocated some sort of retrenchment. The hon'ble member to my right has suggested the discontinuance of the replacement of the Hughli bridge. He says he was on the Port Commission a few years ago when this question was mooted. I have been on that Commission up till about 2 months ago, and he will perhaps be surprised to hear that the bridge has been pronounced to be in a highly dangerous state. It has been carrying on the work of this port for the last 11 years. The foundations are of iron and we know that they rust and corrode, and, if something is not done to relieve the pressure on the old bridge, we shall very soon find communication between Calcutta and Howrah cut off.

Now I would go back to the matter of expenditure. I would ask, what about the commitments of the Government as a whole? The Council is not, for example, called upon to vote the salaries of Imperial officers. The whole administration is not in the hands of Ministers. We have accepted a system of dyarchy, and we are committed to trying to make it a success. Are we likely to do so if we start by ignoring the need for give-and-take?

A good deal has been said about the cost of establishment. I come from a race, which does not believe too much in state activity, but this unbelief is not shared by modern India. Members of this House, who paint lurid pictures of the villainy of an arrangement, which involves spending money on a Government department, will, with their next breath, as it were, advocate some new form of departmental activity. If you want your Government departments to do practically everything for you, you must pay them. Complaints have been made about the reorganisation of the Imperial and Provincial Services, and the improvement of their pay and prospects. It is now suggested that the reorganisation should have started at the bottom and not at the top. But the Public Services Commission, which visited India in 1912-13, 1913-14 had all the subordinate services excluded from their purview. Did the public men of India protest about this? The talk was then only of equality as between Europeans and Indians. Most of the Provincial Services were reorganised last year. Did the public men then suggest that this was unnecessary? Not a bit: on the contrary, press and pulpit vied with one another in demanding the best terms. I am not saying that this reorganisation was not right. I say that it was, and I think that it must be carried on, until all grades of the public service are placed on a proper footing. But I do not see how you can reorganise any department if you begin at the bottom.

I deprecate the extraction from the budget of detached items, and the composition of flowery passages of rhetoric on this basis. "Rs. 10,000 for furniture for Nurses' Quarters," "Rs 15,000 for dispensaries," "Rs. 2,83,000 for land for the quarters of married Sergeants," "one lakh for primary schools in the mufassal" No one has tried to ascertain for what purpose Rs. 15,000 was included for dispensaries, or the provision of one lakh for primary schools made. The Ministers will doubtless explain But Rs 10,000 for furnishing Nurses' quarters is surely a perfectly justifiable provision—really a necessary one. The Medical College Hospital is an enormous institution and it ministers mainly to Indians. I think I am right in saying that seven-tenths, nay I am safe in saying that four-fifths of the patients treated in the Medical College Hospital are Indians I would therefore ask you, would it be reasonable to leave these quarters without furniture? Why drag in the fact that the nurses are Europeans or Anglo-Indians? Is this fair? Do those who talk like this insinuate that Indian nurses would not be employed if they were available? Then, what about the police sergeants? Do the critics of this provision suppose that Government would have included it, if they had not been compelled to do so? What are the facts? I suppose that it is not a crime even for a European sergeant to be married, but if he is married, his wife and children must live somewhere At present, I understand, they are living in rented houses at an unreasonable and ever increasing cost to the taxpayer, and what is more, they are scattered Efficiency as well as economy demands that they should be concentrated near Lal Bazar Of course many members apparently regard all police as an unnecessary imposition. Is this a time for weakening or antagonising your police force either in Calcutta or anywhere else? I would ask you to look at the daily papers of yesterday and to-day and see what is going on at our very doors, at Lillooah.

Here the member having reached the time-limit discontinued his speech.

Mr. S. R. DAS: I am not in a position either to congratulate or condemn the Government on the Budget, which they have presented before us, for the simple reason that I have not sufficient knowledge A number of points have been raised by the members in criticism of the Budget, and, if they are correct there is no doubt that the Budget deserves severe condemnation. But I propose to keep an open mind, until I have heard the replies of the Hon'ble Members and Ministers and then I shall be in a position to make up my mind as to whether to condemn the Budget or not. There is, however, one point on which I feel I must express regret, and that is the meagreness of the information which has been vouchsafed to us by this Budget. I do not propose to go into the details, but I will give one illustration. Take the head of non-voted There is nothing to show what the items under that heading consist of, and it is impossible for this Council to judge, whether the items which

would be included under the head of non-voted really come within the exceptions under section 72D, or whether they are really items which this Council is not entitled to deal with. I have no doubt that the meagreness of the information given in the Budget is to some extent due to the fact that this new régime came into existence only on the 3rd of January last, but I hope that in the next Budget the Finance Member will consider whether he cannot give us fuller information. I feel that a good deal of criticism and a good deal of time of the Council will be saved, if fuller information is given to us.

There are one or two matters on which I should like to have an explanation from the Finance Member. I find from page 2 of the statement furnished to us that a sum of Rs. 86 lakhs and odd is proposed to be refunded to the Government of India. I find that it is not under the heading of either voted or non-voted. I take it therefore that the item is excluded from the purview of this Council and has been merely stated there by way of information. I should like to know how the Government propose to pay this amount back to the Government of India without first submitting the matter to the Council. I find, for instance, under rule 14 of the Devolution Rules, that the surplus is a part of the revenue which is being allotted to us. Section 14 says: "The following sources of revenue shall, in the case of Governor's provinces, be allocated to the local Government as sources of provincial revenue, namely—

(a) balances standing at the credit of the province at the time when the Act comes into force."

It is clear from the accounts given on pages 1 and 2 that the opening balance is Rs. 3,44,00,000 and that this Rs. 86 lakhs is to be paid out of that sum. Now, under section 14 of the Devolution Rules this is a source of provincial revenue from the 3rd January, and under section 72D of the Government of India Act, proposals of the local Government for the appropriation of provincial revenues and other monies in any year shall be submitted to the vote of the Council in the form of demands for grants. This Rs. 86 lakhs has, by reason of section 14 of the Devolution Rules, become a part of the provincial revenue, and it appears, as I have said, that the Government do not propose to submit that before this Council at all. I have no doubt that the Government have considered this matter carefully, and probably the Hon'ble Finance Member will be able to give a very satisfactory reply, and I hope he will vouchsafe an answer to this question. But I will assume for the present, Sir, that Government are entitled to make this payment to the Government of India without consulting the Council. I would however, ask the Government to consider whether, even if they possessed that right, it would not have been better, if they had in this matter taken the Council into their confidence, and whether it would not have been better to place before the Council the reasons why they desire to

make this payment to the Government of India immediately, although under the Act we can take 12 years to make this payment, and then ask the Council to support them in their views to make immediate payment? It may be that they have very good reasons for making the payment this year. But the complaint I desire to make is merely that they should have, before making up their mind to return this money, consulted the Council and asked their views on the subject.

I propose, Sir, to make an appeal to Government on this point. We started with a surplus of Rs. 3,44,00,000, the whole of which, with the exception of about Rs. 50 lakhs, is proposed to be spent during this year. I may assume for the present, because I am not in a position to judge yet, that the whole of this expenditure is necessary. I will ask the Government to consider what we propose to do after we have spent all this surplus in the next year. A large portion of this surplus is being spent for the purpose of increases in salary. I am not one who is going to grudge an increase of salary to the officers, to whom it is proposed to be given. But this is a permanent increase, and we shall have to meet it in future. The surplus, with the exception of about Rs. 50 lakhs, will probably be spent this year. How do the Government propose to meet the increased expenditure, which we shall have to prepare for in the coming years? If of course the Government of India come to our rescue—and we hope and trust they will, and in fact they must, if they want this Council to do any useful work—we may be able to meet this increased expenditure, but shall we then have sufficient money to meet the necessary expenses on sanitation and education? Nothing particular has been provided for this year, so far as those subjects are concerned. There may be very good reasons for making no provision this year. I hope Government will be able to give us some explanation in that connection. But we have to spend a good deal of money in this and in the coming years, and if we spend the whole of the surplus this year, I would ask the Government to consider whether we shall really be in a position to meet these needs. Now my appeal to the Council is this. Could not something be done to spend less during this year? I would suggest that they should spend whatever may be absolutely necessary to spend, but there must be some projects on which money is proposed to be spent this year which may be deferred for a year or two, these projects should be postponed, so that we may be in possession of a sufficient surplus to spend something during the coming years on such subjects as malaria and education. Now, take, for instance, this Rs. 86 lakhs, which we are going to return to the Government of India. As I have said, I do not know whether there is any urgent reason for making the payment this year, but if there is nothing to prevent it, why should we not retain this sum this year and arrange for the payment of the interest on it and pay only by instalments according to the power which has been conferred on us under the law? Then we could utilise this money, or, at any rate, if we cannot utilise the

money this year, we could utilise it in future years on matters I have mentioned.

There is another item of Rs. 2,83,000 which is proposed to be spent for the acquisition of land for accommodation of married sergeants. I should like to make it quite clear that I am not raising any objection to this money being spent for sergeants' quarters, which may be absolutely necessary. But is it necessary that we should spend this money this year for the purpose of purchasing land which means another Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 lakhs probably next year for erecting a building on that land? Is it necessary that we should do that, when it is possible that we may get some of our big landlords in Calcutta to build sufficient accommodation which we could get by paying rent? For instance we might make a provision of Rs. 16,000 or Rs 17,000 a year for the purpose of paying rent for the accommodation instead of making a provision of Rs. 2,83,000.

There are other items of that description. I notice an item of Rs. 4 lakhs and odd for the purpose of building police quarters in Bhowanipore. I do not propose to go into all the items It is really for the Government to consider, because I am not in a position to say, whether these expenses are so urgently necessary that they must be incurred during the present year. It is for the Government to consider whether there may not be some of those items of proposed expenditure, which could be put off for some time, so that we may retain a large portion of the balances. I again ask Government to consider this There is, Government are aware, a cry of non-co-operation outside, and we, in spite of that cry, have all come here, because we believe that we can serve our country best by co-operating with the Government. We have come here for that purpose. Now, would it not be of great assistance to us, and would it not make this new Government under the Reforms Act exceedingly popular, if the Government could show that they are keeping back a large portion of the surplus, say Rs. 80 or Rs. 90 lakhs for the purpose of fighting the ravages of malaria, which they are unable to spend this year, because they have not had time to prepare a scheme, and which they keep in reserve for the purpose, when a scheme is forthcoming? I appeal to Government to consider whether something like that is not possible, so as to make our task easier, and so as to make Government under the Reforms Act really popular in the country, and so as to catch the mind of the country and practically give a direct answer to those non-co-operationists.

Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA ROY Bahadur: Under the rules of the Council we are permitted to express our opinion, and make our criticisms on the Budget at this stage, and to make our remarks on the general administration, as it affects the financial position of the Province. I hope and trust that under the changed order of things our opinion on the financial statement will carry greater weight than it did before. I must confess that in the form, in which the Budget is presented to us,

I find it very difficult to fully understand the items of expenditure, and to find out whether they are justified or not. Previous speakers have already referred to the very short time given us to study the Budget, thereby giving us little opportunity of criticising the details, except on the main items which stand prominent in the Budget. The expenditure on the Police is an important and indispensable instrument of Government administration, but the cost, I am afraid, is out of all proportion either to its necessity or its efficiency. It has been the policy of the Government to try to improve the department by creating new high appointments and increasing the pay of the highly paid officers. Too much importance seems to be attached to the work of supervision and control, but the fact is overlooked that the real work and the brunt of it falls on the shoulders of the subordinate staff, whose prospect, in spite of the abnormal rise in the cost of the Police Department, has not been materially improved. The Calcutta Police seems to receive a tender and especial care at the hands of the Government and it also affords a typical case of extravagance. I mention the sum of Rs. 2,83,000 provided for the acquisition of land for quarters of married sergeants, and next year's Budget will be burdened with the cost of the building. It seems either the poor constables are all bachelors, or they are never expected to live with their wives, whereas the married sergeants must be given this luxury! There is a provision for strengthening the emergency Police force in Asansol, about the necessity of which I am not convinced. I might observe, in general, that the allotments made for Education, Public Health, Agriculture and Industry are ridiculously small, and it does not augur well that the Ministers are not provided with adequate funds to inaugurate and carry out schemes which are urgently needed, and on which the prosperity and progress of the province, to a large extent, depend. To illustrate my point, I might mention that only Rs. 40,000 has been provided for the improvement of the pay of primary school teachers of more than 37,000 schools, and a lakh of rupees for primary education, in the new grants. This has been done, I believe, to bring into operation the Primary Education Act in the 25 districts. I may inform this Council that the district boards spend more than Rs. 22 lakhs on primary education in rural areas and only a lakh to help the introduction of the Act in rural and urban areas is ridiculously insufficient. I find that the Hill and European schools have been treated rather too generously. I fully appreciate the necessity for well equipped European schools, and do not grudge our European fellow subjects the facilities provided for the education of their children. What I object to is the want of sense of proportion in the distribution of new grants, and the apparent partiality and favouritism shown to particular institutions. The allotments for Public Health, Agriculture and Industry are not only insufficient, but I am afraid will be of very little use, and some important projects and schemes are neglected.

His Excellency the Governor, addressing the District Boards Conference in 1919, was pleased to observe that before the Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Bill became law, and without waiting for it, he had decided on certain projects for anti-malarial schemes, and kindly promised to provide funds for such schemes in the current year's Budget. The Anjana scheme in Nadia was the first of those schemes, but up till now nothing has been done in that respect and I am surprised to find that no money has been provided even in next year's Budget for that purpose.

Representing the district of Nadia as I do, I feel it my bounden duty to bring to the notice of the Government one of the crying needs of my constituency. The drainage scheme of the Krishnagar municipality received administrative sanction so far back as 1915, and the Government very kindly agreed to bear the whole cost, as the municipality was too poor to undertake it. Unfortunately no effect has been given to it yet. You know, Sir, that Krishnagar is an insanitary town, and the public health of the place is materially affected by want of proper drainage. The stagnation of water and dirty water in particular, is the reservoir for the breeding ground of mosquitoes, and the cause of the outbreak of malaria of a malignant type, and of other contagious diseases. The Krishnagar water-works is now in progress, and will be completed very shortly, and, if the drainage work is not undertaken, the water-works, specially in Ward No. 1, instead of being a blessing will be a curse, as it will cause greater stagnation of dirty water with its concomitant evil effects. I hope and trust that steps will be taken to save the citizens of Krishnagar from that scourge by providing it with good drainage, to which Government is pledged.

I am glad to find that the poor officers of the ministerial establishment have come in for some consideration at the hands of the Government. It was a matter of surprise that, while the Government was rather generous in the case of the high and the highly-paid official, it paid rather scanty attention to the work of relieving the distress of the poor clerks in the mufassal, who, in these hard days, find it difficult to make both ends meet, and have to deny themselves even of some of the bare necessaries of life. Their lot is truly a pitiable one, and I appeal to the Government that, when an increase is sanctioned to their salary, justice will be done to them and retrospective effect will be given to the increase as was done in the case of the higher officials.

We hear in these days a good deal of vocational and industrial education, and I am glad to find that the Government is also paying some attention in that direction. Among other things, some weaving schools have been started and others are proposed. I am surprised to find that it has not struck the Government that one of the best places for such schools is Santipur in the Nadia district, which I may justly claim as the home of the weaving industry, and which shares that honour with

Dacca. Santipur cloth and fabrics still maintain a well deserved reputation in this country, and weaving schools in that centre will revive the industry, which is now fast falling to decay; and its revival will bring prosperity to thousands of poor and desolate homes.

I fully support the proposal of Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri to increase the value of stamps, as it will add to our revenue and will not cause appreciable hardship.

I add my humble voice to the general demand that the duty on jute be handed over to Bengal, and hope that her legitimate claims to that revenue will be recognised by the Government of India, and, if this is not done, we are bound to have recourse to drastic retrenchment or further taxation. Taxation in the present economic condition of Bengal will be unbearable, and we cannot think of it. It will certainly lead to very great discontent and unrest.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: From our boyhood, we have been seeing that generally the speeches of the hon'ble members of the Council were being directed to one direction, viz., the cry for the reduction of the cost for police, that of new appointments of highly salaried officers, and the postponement of the construction of public buildings, and the desire to allot the money to sanitation and education, industries, etc.

Before entering into this Hall, many of us were under the impression that we would hear something new, but as fate would have it, even here, in the Reformed Council, we hear the repetition of the same cry.

Attempts were made in various ways to postpone the discussion on the Budget, as it was presented to the members only the other day, but all attempts failed. Mr. D. C. Ghose in his very able speech put forward some unavoidable reasons for the delay, and I may add, another, viz., that the papers and books of this department got burnt. But one point that strikes me most and appears rather very curious, Sir, is that this Legislative Body in its old stage passed the Bengal Municipal Act and the Local Self-Government Act. In those Acts, it is compulsory in municipalities and district boards that 15 days must pass between the date of presentation of the Budget and its final discussion. But most unfortunately the same body has made no such law for its own guidance. Sir, the necessity for more money under the heads of primary education, sanitation, etc., has been felt even by such European members as Mr. Travers and Colonel Pugh. The former was kind enough to suggest means for that purpose.

Colonel Pugh was pleased to inform us that we have got the Self-Government, so long desired by us, but that the Ministers were not ready with their programme. The definition of Self-Government, as put forward by Colonel Pugh, comes to this—A form of Government where the members have no right to vote for the allocation of money according

to the needs of the country. In reply, I beg to submit that if that is his idea of Self-Government, I must say that his long stay in Bengal has had a very bad effect on him and he needs a change. As to whether the Ministers are ready with their programme or not, I, like Mr. Stark, do not hold any brief for the Ministers and I hope that the Hon'ble Minister will satisfy him on that point, on the ground of 65 per cent. and 35 per cent.

Sir, I had absolutely no intention to enter into sectional questions, but not only myself but all my friends desire that replies to some of the questions are necessary. Mr Stark told us—as if it was not known to any one of us—that the income has been specified by the Government of India, and the Hon'ble Finance Minister gets figures from each department and allocates money accordingly. Therefore not *he*, but the *Reformed scheme* is responsible for this kind of Budget, and that there must be difficulties in the transition period. But, Sir, may I ask why the popular side always feels these difficulties? May I know, Sir, why there was no money for the people before the introduction of the Reformed Council and no money after its introduction, and why the people should always be told that they must suffer whether there is reform or no reform?

He has told us that not *one lakh* but *24 lakhs* have been provided for primary education. In reply, I would refer him to paragraph 8, page 13 of the Hon'ble Finance Minister's General Review.

Then, Sir, dealing with the grants to European schools and Colonial Homes at Kalimpong, he passed several sarcastic observations and told us that the Europeans and the Anglo-Indians have raised a large sum as donations, and if the Bengalis, who, according to him, are rolling in money, do the same, they may also expect to get similar grants. On this subject, Mr. Forrester asked and inquired how much income-tax is realised from the respective communities. Apart from the legal aspects on this point, if I am not accused of any rudeness, I will put one question which will be an answer to both of these questions.

May I ask, Sir, where this money was earned from which donations and income-tax have been paid? This finishes the whole thing.

We have heard to-day from another European member Mr. Larmour, who raised three points—(1) That every member made a destructive but not a constructive speech.—In reply I beg to submit, Sir, that Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri, Mr. S. R. Das and Mr. D. C. Ghose have made definite suggestions, and we would salaam him a thousand times, if he can induce the Government to accept the suggestions.—(2) That "Is it a crime for the police officers to marry?"—In reply I beg to inform him that "no, it is not; on the other hand the construction of buildings will induce other police officers to marry."—(3) That after the latest incidents of yesterday and the day before, no one should discourage the help to the police. But unfortunately perhaps he does not know that the police, for whom these buildings are suggested to be constructed are

the traffic police, and not those who are engaged in the prevention and detection of crime.

Sir, it will be found from paragraph 9 at page 14, of the observation that the Hon'ble the Finance Member has been pleased to make, that "the necessity for educating cultivators in improved and scientific methods of cultivation is pressing. The need for more money to spend on sanitation and medical schemes is well-known to every member of the Council . . . new departments such as Industries, Fisheries, Agriculture, Co-operative Credit are all alike in need of funds."

This is very significant. It seems that the Hon'ble Member, after allotting all the revenue to other heads, found to his utter surprise that money has not been allotted on primary Education, Sanitation, Agriculture, etc., and, like the guardian of minors, he asked our countrymen to wait and assured us that our future would be bright.

Does he intend to say to our countrymen that he has provided money for the maintenance of sufficient police to see that they become law-abiding and are brought to justice, when they are found in any way lawless or disorderly, but unfortunately he could not find money to provide means for saving them from the grip of death and to see that they live and become law-abiding and orderly. Does he mean, Sir, to tell us that in order to avoid difficulties, that may confront our future generation for regulating the traffic, he has made arrangements for permanent location of those, who will regulate the traffic of the town, by the acquisition of lands and the construction of buildings for them, but that there is no money to save the life of future generations, who are dying in thousands, and, according to our Minister, the number of their deaths is appalling. Is it a fact, Sir, that he has been able to provide money for the establishment of a new university and for the construction of buildings for that purpose with intent to extend higher education to our countrymen, but, unfortunately enough, he has no money to give them for primary education, and to make the usual grant to the already existing university? Are we to understand, Sir, that he has been able to provide money for the construction of buildings, acquisition of lands for the partition of the Midnapore and Mymensingh districts and also for strengthening the Criminal Intelligence Department, but unfortunately for us he could not find money to help industries, fisheries and agriculture, etc.

May I inquire, Sir, why no money, except the Imperial recurring grant, has been provided for in the Budget as grant to the University of Calcutta? As far as I know the Calcutta University has got to make a substantial contribution to the mufassal colleges, and, if no grant is given to this University, the result will be that these colleges will cease to exist. Is it the intention of the Government to do away with all mufassal colleges in this part of Bengal? Is it not possible, Sir, to postpone the construction of buildings at Dacca, and to use those palaces for the purposes of the University, that were constructed, when

Dacca was made a capital, and to make a grant to the Calcutta University out of this sum? In this paragraph (9 of page 14) we find that the Hon'ble Finance Member observes that "A special officer is engaged in drawing up a scheme for the improvement of primary education in Bengal. As soon as some line of action in this matter is decided upon, very large expenditure will have to be faced"!

May I inquire, Sir, whether this special officer is Mr. Biss. Will the Hon'ble Member kindly let us know whether or not Mr. Biss has submitted his report in December, 1920, and is he now going about in the municipalities and districts showing by diagrams how primary education is to be spread? Is it not a fact that the scheme suggested by him is very costly, and is almost prohibitive for municipalities and district boards for taking it up themselves? If that is so, why should provision of money for this purpose be delayed? May I take the liberty of requesting information, Sir, as to when, by whom and on what basis, 65 per cent. and 35 per cent have been alotted to the reserved and transferred subjects, respectively? Is there no chance for reconsideration or revision of this percentage? Sir, this is a double-edged weapon to us. If we go to the Ministers, they say that we have been given only 35 per cent: we cannot spare more and, if we go to the Members, they say your countrymen are in charge of it, so, what can we do?

Sir, on page 13, the probable receipt on the interest on provincial loans and advances has been shown to be Rs. 4,21,000, while, on the expenditure side in page 13, expenditure on this item has been shown to be nil.

On page 17 of the receipt side, probably the income from experimental cultivation has been shown to be Rs 2 lakhs

On page 18 on the receipt side of the Budget, the probable income from cinchona cultivation has been shown to be Rs. 16 lakhs.

Sir, as suggested by Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri and Colonel Pugh and Mr. S. R. Das, the repayment of loans of Rs. 86 lakhs to the Government of India may be put off. May not, Sir, the construction of the new buildings under the head "Civil Buildings," the strengthening of the Criminal Intelligence Department and the Partition of Midnapore and Mymensingh be postponed?

Is it too much for the people of Bengal to ask that this saving may be spent to save them from malaria, and find out means to prevent child mortality? May not they appeal, Sir, to spend a portion of this sum to save the future generations of Bengal by establishing institutions for the training of *dhais* and midwives and subsidising them in the different districts, and by making arrangements for the supply of pure milk to the infants and by establishing hospitals and dispensaries? May not they reasonably ask to spend a portion of this on primary education, and for the establishment of industrial institutions to provide means of occupation to the young men of our country?

At this stage the Member having reached the time-limit, asked for extension, but this was disallowed by the President

Mr. S. M. BOSE: I wish to confine my remarks to the subject of ication, which, to my mind, is the most vital of all our problems ejoice to find that the budgeted expenditure for this head is 4,65,000 more than the estimate for 1920-21 and Rs 18,22,000 more in the revised estimate. Owing to the enforced economy during the r, the expenditure for education was unfortunately cut down I ist that now it will be greatly increased to make up for past years go further, and ask the Hon'ble Minister in charge to beg or borrow ore money, so that he can spend a sum greatly in excess of the amount w budgeted. I plead specially for a more extended scheme of imary Education. I am glad to find an additional sum of one lakh pt for primary education in the mufassal But it behoves our local dies to bestir themselves, and to take the fullest advantage of the wers given to them in this matter so that the amount provided may t remain unspent owing to their lack of enterprise

I plead earnestly, Sir, the cause of women's education, for I firmly lieve that the country will not progress, unless our women are better ucated and better able to take care of themselves We must fully cognise the fact that a woman has duties to herself as well as to others, d that woman will be most truly woman, when all the latent possibilities of her nature have been fully developed

I ask now particularly for a great extension of primary education r girls I am glad to find an additional sum of Rs 15,500 kept for rdanashin classes in addition to the sum of Rs 17,000 kept as usual r zenana classes This is a move in the right direction, and I venre to request the Hon'ble Minister to see if he cannot in the course of e year spend more for this purpose. To my mind, women's education equite as important as men's if not more, and I would therefore press r the attention of the Government and also of the public the supreme portance of the subject Private liberality should be forthcoming in larger measure to supplement Government aid. We cannot blame e Government, if in allocating funds when there are great many emands, they recognise the principle of self-help and help those who elp themselves.

There is another matter, to which I wish briefly to draw the attention the Government. There are many excellent schemes in connection ith women's education involving the capital outlay of large sums of oney. It is obviously impossible to finance these schemes all at ice. So I suggest that loans be raised by the Local Government for e purpose. In addition to the interest on these loans, a sum should e set apart each year for a sinking fund to repay them. The Governent and school authorities asking for the loan should jointly contriute towards the annual interest and the sinking fund in such proporon as may be in each case determined. The advantages of this course

are obvious. It will enable the Government to take in hand many useful schemes at the same time and the payment of the cost is spread over a number of years. It will also foster the spirit of self-help and local patriotism.

Lastly, I venture to put in a word for that much maligned body, the Calcutta University, and I would request the Government to see if it is not possible to give it a larger contribution. It is unfortunate that we cannot expect much help from the Government of India. Bengal owes a deep debt of gratitude to the University, and I am loth to believe that it will kill its *alma mater* by starvation.

Before I finish, I am impelled to refer to the unfortunate note of discord sounded yesterday by some friends here. I am very sorry for this, as it will tend to mar the spirit of mutual help and toleration that should prevail here. May I not appeal to all those in this Council to refrain from uttering a single bitter word, that would foment disunion among us? May I not appeal to them to resist the temptation to say smart things that merely appeal to the gallery and cause unnecessary irritation? May I not appeal to them to lead the way, and show respect and regard for every interest that is represented here? Let us always remember that minorities have also their rights.

We all have to remember that we have set out hand to the stupendous work of nation-building, and I need hardly point out that this work of construction should be based on the solid foundation of mutual help and esteem. In this great work we want the assistance of every body, Christian, Muhammadan and Hindu, European and Indian. With malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, let us go forward and strive with all our united might for the establishment of the government of the people by the people and for the people.

Mr. D. J. COHEN: The Budget presented to us is disappointing, especially in view of the admission in paragraph 7 of the Budget that "The Presidency is faced with an unparalleled demand for development in every direction." It largely contains provisions for additions to buildings and increase of salaries. No one can grudge the increase of salaries in view of the abnormal rise in prices of foodstuffs and clothing, but we should have liked to see included in it provisions for several useful and urgent schemes to the exclusion of less important projects. None of the departments under the Ministers appear to have received sufficient attention. The small amounts that have been included are wholly inadequate. Were there no useful schemes ready, prepared by the various departments that could have received the approval of the Ministers? Having regard to the important subjects in the hands of the Ministers, the percentage allowed them, as against that allowed to the Members, appears to be ridiculously low, if we want these particular departments developed and not to remain in the state they are in now, and I trust that the Ministers will press for an equal division in the

iture. The low percentage does not affect the present Budget because pparently the Ministers could think of no schemes, that could usefully e launched next year, otherwise we would have expected them to pro-st against the immediate repayment of the large loan of Rs. 86 lakhs the central Government at this juncture, as they might have utilised e amount for some useful measures.

Under the heading of Police, while a large provision is being made r acquisition of land for providing sergeants' quarters, I regret to d that no provision has been made for a new building to replace the esent condemned structure at Bankshall Street. The Chief Presi-ncy Magistrate has pressed Government in this matter for some years it without avail. In the meantime the inconvenience to Honorary agistrates, who sometimes have to go back home for want of accom-odation, will have to continue and this means expense and trouble th to litigants and witnesses. The building of the Sealdah Police urt is in no better position. It could never have been intended for a urt house, as a result of which, especially after the appointment of e second Police Magistrate, the inconvenience to Honorary Magis-ates is very great.

While dwelling on this, I would request the Government to serious-consider once again the desirability of having one Central Court stead of three. Apart from the saving in funds one Central Court ould effect, the convenience afforded to the public of having several urts is more than counterbalanced by the inconvenience they have to ffer to get pleaders from different courts to attend to cases, and to ve to pay them special fees.

Turning to the hospitals, while provision is being made for less portant objects, I find no provision has been made to provide an lequate staff of doctors. As far back as I can remember, we have ways had four members of the Indian Medical Service in attendance the Medical College—two physicians and two surgeons. Now that e have added the Tuberculosis Ward and the Prince of Wales Hospi-l, the same number is expected to look into the serious cases of all ese hospitals, including the Ezra Hospital, and to deliver lectures to udents. Taking into consideration the fact that these consultants ve large private practice, one can imagine how impossible it is for em to give the urgent cases the attention they deserve. The outdoor anch of the hospital is also suffering for want of a sufficient number doctors, and I draw the attention of Government to this as well.

I have come to learn only to-day that the Mayo Hospital authorities tend closing the Ripon Street branch for want of funds. It is only few years back that they were forced for the same reason to close the door branch of the Chandney Hospital. Their Ripon Street dispen-ry is admittedly doing very useful work, judging from the number of tients attending daily, and it is up to Government to step forward and

put the hospital authorities on their legs. We know that all our hospitals are overcrowded. Is this the time to allow a dispensary to be closed?

Mr. SYED ERFAN ALI: I wish to offer a few general observations on the Budget. The most outstanding fact in the Budget for 1921-22 is an increase of expenditure over the estimated income. The deficit with which we are faced is not a small amount. It comes up to over two crores of rupees. There is just a chance that the Government of India might come to the rescue of Bengal. They might carry out the direction of the Joint Parliamentary Committee that the peculiar financial difficulties of Bengal should receive their special consideration. This consideration the Government of India were evidently not in a mood to show so far. If they had done so, the position of our Presidency would have been less serious than it is at present. If, however, the Government of India give effect to the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee even now, they would help in smoothing our difficulties. But even with such help the financial position of Bengal will continue to be difficult.

If the Reforms, that have been introduced, are to be a reality in Bengal her finances should above every thing be placed on a stable basis. By this I mean that this Presidency should be enabled to start on her new career with a proper income. Our resources are not in any way inadequate. Bengal's present plight is, however, to be attributed to the new financial readjustment which dispossesses her mostly of her share of expanding sources of revenue. A portion of this should now be restored to Bengal, if she is to be saved from financial ruin and bankruptcy.

In his speech introducing the Budget, the Hon'ble Mr Kerr remarked that so far Bengal had been in the position of a young man in the possession of a fine estate, but limited in regard to his expenditure to the annual sum allowed to him by his guardians, and he congratulated the Province on its release from the financial leading strings of the Government of India. Mr. Kerr appears to have taken a too optimistic view of the situation. He seems to have forgotten that no considerate and dutiful guardian would ever be a party to an arrangement, which provides for his ward, when he comes of age, an income which, as has been the case with the Budget before us, falls far short of his expenditure, the scale of expenditure having practically been fixed at the instance of the so-called guardians.

We have this year the good fortune of having at our disposal an opening balance of about three crores and a half. This balance will help us in meeting our deficit for 1921-22. The year, however, is expected to close with a dwindled balance of Rs. 52 lakhs only. This diminished balance might be further reduced, for it is feared that the expectations as regards increase of revenue might not be realised. The

onditions of trade are as uncertain as they are precarious. The monoons are equally dubious and doubtful factor, and nobody desires an ncrease in the excise revenue. The financial prospects of our Province ppear, therefore, to be such as to cause the most serious misgiving in he minds of those who are anxious that Bengal should now launch on a vell-considered programme of social reconstruction and reform.

It is to be noted that the budgeted expenditure for 1921-22 far xceeds the annual expenditure of any past year and that the estimate or the coming year is higher than the revised estimate of the current ear by over two crores and a half. A substantial part of this increase s due to additional expenditure for carrying on the ordinary work of dministration. The deficit will thus continue, and there will be no urplus to fall back upon, when the time for the framing of the next udget comes. Unless, therefore, we are provided with funds from ome other sources, there will be no course left to us for meeting even ur ordinary expenditure than to impose fresh burdens on the tax-payer, hat to say of expenditure for special projects for improving the general ondition of the people.

There are three ways in which the financial resources of Bengal ay be improved. These are: firstly, fresh taxation; secondly, provision f funds by borrowing; and, thirdly, inducing the Government of ndia to augment the share of revenue that has been allotted to Bengal. 'resh taxation appears to me to be unthinkable at the present moment or a variety of reasons especially after the new proposals of the Govrnment of India. In the first instance, any imposition of fresh burdens n the tax-payer would prejudice the successful working of the Reforms y creating distrust and suspicion in the public mind. Further the axable capacity of the people has, in the opinion of many competent ersons, reached its furthest limits. Then, it has to be borne in mind hat it is never prudent for any Government to resort to such a course or the purpose of carrying on the ordinary work of administration. The Finance Member has explained that, until the present deficit is ot rid of, we cannot use our borrowing powers to the best advantage. Besides, owing to the existing condition of the money market this annot be considered to be a suitable time for floating loans. The only ossible solution of our present difficulty lies, therefore, in the adoption of the third course. Bengal can very justly claim for herself the roceeds of the income-tax as also the duty on jute, which is entirely a rovincial source of revenue. This would afford the needed relief to Bengal.

It is very unfortunate that the proportion of expenditure on the eserved subjects has been kept unduly high while that on the transerred subjects is unduly low. While there has been a considerable ncrease in expenditure on General Administration, Justice, Police, and Civil Works, there is not any real increase in expenditure on Education, Sanitation, Agriculture, Industries, etc., which have very properly been

described as nation-building departments. This is certainly not the time for indulging in expenditure on superfluous appointments and unnecessary civil works. Yet these are the objects, to which much of the increased expenditure is devoted. Very little has been allotted to primary education, and no increase of grant has been made to the Calcutta University, which has such a large number of students and serves the whole of the Province. I am glad that Dacca has got Rs. 11 lakhs. But the Calcutta University certainly did not deserve the neglect that has been shown of its needs and requirements. More tangible encouragement to agriculture and industries was demanded than the usual one of providing new buildings, and extravagant establishment charges. Considering the present financial stringency of the Province, the authorities should not have undertaken the costly Grand Trunk Canal project now.

Sir, I would be failing in my duty as a member of this Council, if I did not take advantage of this opportunity to give expression to the keen disappointment of the public at the unsatisfactory character of the Budget from the people's point of view. So far the Budget used to be framed entirely by the officials. This was the first time, in which Indian Ministers took part in the preparation of the Budget. The public naturally expected that the Ministers would be able to provide for increased expenditure for schemes of social reconstruction and advance matters which had so far received very inadequate attention at the hands of the authorities. The Budget does not show that the subjects that have been transferred to Ministers have received greater attention than hitherto. The present Budget is exactly like those which preceded it. We find that the proportion of expenditure in the transferred departments to that in the reserved departments is the same in the present Budget as before. There has been an increase of Rs. 2,65,01,000 over the revised estimate for 1921-22. A careful scrutiny of the figures will show that the Budget, in fact, places the departments, over which our Ministers preside, in a worse position than that in which they had been under the *old régime*, for an increase in the staff and in the emoluments of officers does not constitute any real advance. Even in this year of stringency and special difficulty, when we are faced with a huge deficit, funds appear to have been freely provided for departments, which have so far enjoyed more attention and care than either the funds at the disposal of Government or the circumstances permit. No new or important scheme for the improvement of the general condition of the people has been undertaken. So long as funds are not made available for the proper development of the transferred departments, the Reforms cannot be expected to be considered by the people to be a reality.

Besides the provision by the Government of India of suitable funds for Bengal, there is another way in which it is possible for the authorities to avert the financial danger that threatens our Province. They should take the courageous step of applying the pruning knife to the

vergrown and continually over-growing expenditure on the adminis-ration. Burke's dictum that the encumbrance of useless office lies "no ess a dead weight upon the services of the State than upon its revenues" s one which may very appropriately be commended to them. The prin-ple which he enunciated in the course of his great speech on the econo-ical reformation of the Civil and other services in 1780, that "all ffices which bring more charge than proportionate advantage to the tate . . . ought to be taken away" applies with——

The PRESIDENT: You have exceeded the time-limit.

Mr. SYED ERFAN ALI: May I have a minute to conclude my entence?

The PRESIDENT: Yes, I allow you one minute to conclude your entence.

Mr. SYED ERFAN ALI: With equal force and emphasis to the case f Bengal. Never was there a greater need for economy and retrench-ment As Lu Chi, a political philosopher of Asia, who flourished in he eighteenth century put it——

The PRESIDENT: You were given time to conclude your sentence ot to conclude your speech. I cannot permit you to go on.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: I should like to make a few general bservations on the Budget. We have been asked to make the Reforms success; by this I understand that it is the duty both of the Govern-ent and the governed to try their best to enable the country to be in a t position to govern itself as soon as possible. Taking this to be our oal I shall scrutinise the Budget as it is before us

Now, Sir, when one looks into it, one has to rub one's eyes to find ut if there is any indication in the Budget which gives one an idea that he Government is, in earnest in its desire to make the Reforms a uccess. If we consider the heavy expense which we have been called pon to meet as an indication of success then can the Reforms be said o be a success. If we think that the appointment of a few Indians on igh salaries is an indication that the Reforms are a success, then ertainly they are a success; and if this fact that we have got five Indians lling up the highest offices in the province, be considered to be the ationalisation of the Government, then, from that standpoint, the Reforms are a success. But, Sir, the Budget as it is does not give us uch hope.

When we consider the great deficit of about two crores of rupees, e find that certainly our house is not in order. We have been told hat we still have a balance to our credit, but we know what that balance

means. We are not children, and so we should, as we have done before, persistently demand that the Government of India should deliver to Cæsar that which is Cæsar's; it should give back to us the tax on jute which has been appropriated by the central Government for itself; then and then only shall we stand on a substantial financial basis.

The other matter which attracts our attention, is the giving away of Rs. 86 lakhs to the Imperial Government by the Government of Bengal. Sir, we are going to pay this amount on the 1st day of April. To my mind, what this Government should do is to write to the Imperial Government on the 1st April that it has decided to keep this amount in safe custody, and to pay them interest at the rate of 3½ per cent , which they are entitled to get on the major portion of the loan. Sir, to consider the matter very seriously, it passes our comprehension that at a time when we are mostly in need of funds to meet our demands, we are in a hurry to give away the money to the Imperial Government. We find that the only way to meet the many demands on the Government will be to raise loans, and these loans we are going to raise very possibly at a much higher rate of interest. While we had crores to our credit the old Government was quite content to pay heavy sums by way of interest for the loans contracted, and this Government pays back the loan when it needs money the most. This neglect of principle on the part of the Government to safeguard the interests of the people, to save what little money it could, shows, to my mind that the Government is not willing to make the effort that it is necessary for it to do, in order to make the Reforms a success.

Sir, besides that, when we look into the enormous rise in expenses we find that the task before us is hopeless. With your permission, Sir, I shall read a few notes which I have prepared with respect to expenditure on land revenue. If we make a comparison between the expenditure in 1917-18 and the expenditure which we are called upon to incur this year, we find a difference of about Rs. 24 lakhs In Excise, too, we find a big difference in expenditure; in Stamps, Forests and everything; and particularly when we look at the particulars of the General Administration, the difference stands at more than Rs. 11 lakhs. Then, when we come to the Administration of Justice, we find that the difference is Rs. 40,48,000. One of the items which struck me most in this connection, was the setting apart of a certain amount for the Judges of the High Court. Under this item we find that in 1919-20 the amount was Rs. 7,18,754, in 1920-21, it was Rs. 7,44,000; but this year it is Rs. 7,84,000. Considering the gradual increase that we are making in this direction, I think that very possibly, the lawyer-members present in this Council have a very good chance of becoming Judges of the High Court. a

Then, as has been pointed out by my friend Mr. S. N. Mullick, the increase in the expenditure on Police has risen by one crore. It was

lakhs in 1910; it is 1 crore and 90 lakhs now. To my mind, the ıp which the Government of Bengal has taken seems to be a danger-s leap, and instead of making the Reforms a success, this sort of pendıture cannot but retard the progress of the people.

Now, Sir, leaving aside this matter, when we scrutinise the action the Ministers who represent the people, we are simply astounded. ıder new schemes, the provision that has been made is simply ridi-lous. For Agriculture we get an addition of only Rs 5,000 Is it t that many districts in Bengal are badly in need of agricultural farms? ıder Public Health, we find another sum of Rs. 15,000 has been pro-led. Under Education, we find only Rs 1 lakh provided for Pri-ıry Education. These are for new schemes, but, Sir, we have to member that we have met under the ægis of the Reforms; we are ıdged to the Government and the people, to see that the Reforms are real success. In order to make the Reforms a success we ought to ın a position to grant sums necessary to bring the people out of norance, and to teach them to be able to realise their rights and sponsibilities. Sir, we know that nothing whatsoever has yet been ne to ameliorate the condition of the toiling millions. If the nation es in huts, what is it that we have done for them? Have we enabled em to come out of ignorance? Have we enabled them to grow suffi-ıntly on the soil, so that they may live well? No, nothing has yet en done It is our duty, it is the duty of every human being to do that lies in his power to uplift the masses, and for that, these small ms which have been provided in the Budget are not all adequate; ry much more is necessary. And what should we do? First of all, e have to demand to get back the tax on jute; we should try to tax xuries, cinemas, theatres, the race course, and with all the money that e shall be able to get by these means, we shall amply be able to uplift e masses. If this amount be not sufficient, then on the security the amount. I think it should be our duty to raise loans in order at necessary measures are taken. We should not hesitate, and our overnment should be alert, and so should our Ministers. The time lotted to me is very short, and in order to finish, I shall read a few ıes from the farewell address of His Royal Highness the Duke of onnaught. Speaking of the message he would take to the people of ngland he says: "What message can I take back to England? I ıall say this, that a greater effort must be made in England to under-and and appreciate the Indian point of view. The voice of India has ot carried the weight and does not carry the weight which India has right to claim."

To my mind, this is a message which should be delivered to the people remember and cherish, and it should be delivered to the Government ficials to realise that the people do not like to remain subject to the ort of treatment, which they have hitherto received. The people of is country have rights of their own, and they must have them.

Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: If I may not agree with the way in which the funds have been allocated in the Financial Statement, I cannot but congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Member for the lucid way in which he has presented this statement to us. He has been of great help to us in his endeavour to explain to this Council how to understand the Financial Statement. He has shown us clearly the heads, from which the income is derived for the provincial Government and the heads of expenditure. There was one matter which I looked for, but did not find, viz., he has not indicated in the statement what has been done to reduce expenditure. In ordinary business concerns when the expenditure exceeds the income, there is a reduction either of branches of the business or of establishment, and in such other ways; but we do not see in this Financial Statement as to how the Finance Member, has sought to meet the situation. This is a principle, which is recognised in administrative finance, and has been indicated by Mr. Hailey in his speech delivered in the Legislative Assembly yesterday. With your permission, Sir, I will read a short extract from that speech.

. . . But the fact remains that we have been outspending our income and unless we take early steps to make both ends meet we shall assuredly find sooner or later that, with our revenues mortgaged and our credit impaired, not only will there be no money for the development, moral and material, which India so greatly needs but it will even be difficult to carry on the administration at its present level of efficiency. To retrace one's steps uphill is never a pleasant process but it is a process which must be followed by every country which is determined to set its finances in order. I lay down two propositions as elemental and essential. In the first place we must either by decreasing our expenditure, or by increasing our revenue, or by a combination of both measures, make our accounts balance. In the next place, in so far as we are not able to fund our floating debt or a reasonable portion of our fiduciary note issue in our long-term loans, we must also direct our financial policy in such a way as to replace from revenue the deficits, which we have been financing by the expedients which I have mentioned. For, camouflage the situation how it may, no country can continue indefinitely to live on its overdrafts, even worse is it to attempt to paper over the chasm between revenue and expenditure by the simple process of printing currency notes.

This is what the Finance Member of the Government of India says, and in the Government of India they have a much greater advantage than we have here, because they have sources of revenue not only elastic but of an upward tendency. Customs have been taken away from us; we all expected now that the war is over, trade would revive and customs would increase. So also with income-tax: that has also been taken away by the central Government. In Bengal the sources of revenue are mostly inelastic; land revenue is absolutely stiff, except in *khas mahals* which are not very wide in Bengal, and for the stiffness I must say that we owe it to the way in which the bureaucracy managed the administration from the close of the eighteenth century to the present day. It was probably necessary at the time, when the country had to be settled and landholders had to be pacified, but it is wholly unnecessary at the present day.

Then, coming to the Land Revenue heads, as shown in the Budget, I nd that apart from expenditure on survey and settlement operations in ne four districts, in which they are now being carried on, it is proposed uring the current year to start settlement operations in three other istricts. In Bengal, settlement is not so absolutely necessary as in hose provinces, where there is a temporary settlement of revenue or a evision of settlement at the end of 15, 20, or 30 years. Settlement was rovided for in Bengal under the Bengal Tenancy Act of 1885. At his time of financial stringency, settlement operations in other istricts should not be started, as it will involve a very large sum of noney. This may well stand over for a short while, as they have stood ver for more than a quarter of a century, even if authorised by legisation.

Then I find that a very large part of the increase over ordinary exenditure is due to the increase in the pay of the services. Having egard to the high prices prevailing, an increase was undoubtedly ecessary, but the way in which it has been shown in the Budget is that he increase has been made permanent instead of temporary. We do not know when normal conditions will be restored and prices come down gain; when prices come down, there will be no necessity for the increase o continue; why Government has fixed these increases permanently, do not know. From what little information I have been able to obtain, gather that there have been increases in the services in England, but hey are all temporary during the prevalence of high prices.

I find in the Budget an item of expenditure under "Salt" of Rs. 2 lakhs. So far as I have been able to make out, the revenue rom salt goes entirely to the Government of India; there is no reason why the provincial Government should contribute any part towards he cost, and I should also like to ask the Member in charge of Finance is to who pays for the upkeep, and for the construction, of the salt golahs at Kidderpore and Sulkea.

I should also like some information as to how the revenue from stamps, which are both postage and revenue, is going to be apportioned, because you cannot say how much is applied for postage and how much for revenue; a large part goes for revenue purposes, that part should come to the local Government. If there is no new method of making the apportionment, then the old method which has prevailed previous to the last 10 years, should be enforced again; that is, revenue stamps should be denoted as such, and postage stamps should be separately treated.

While on Stamps, I take the liberty to suggest that, with regard to increasing revenue there is a very large amount of share transactions in Calcutta and a large amount of revenue may reasonably be derived from these transactions. What happens ordinarily in these transactions is that the original holder of a share signs the transfer deed; the transfer deed has to be signed both by the seller and the buyer; the buyer

sells it to another person, who in his turn sells it to a third person, and so on for the next 20 transactions, and the same stamp on the transfer deed is utilised throughout. So that Government loses the *ad valorem* duty on 20 transactions and gets a revenue duty on one transaction only. As I have already said, a very large amount of share business is done in Calcutta, and if some method can be devised to enforce payment of duty on each transaction, a large amount of revenue is likely to be realised. There is also one method by which our revenue can be realised by stamps. There are a large number of awards under the Indian Arbitration Act and also under private agreements. These awards are filed in courts and by virtue of legislation, instead of going through any hearing in court, they have the force of decrees and can be executed immediately. When a party goes to a court and files a suit, he has to pay an *ad valorem* duty on the amount of his claim; while in filing the award he has simply to pay, probably 8 annas in courts outside Calcutta and Rs. 2 in the High Court and in courts inside Calcutta; and, although the award may be for Rs. 5 lakhs, the party gets the whole machinery of the judiciary to help him to realise his dues. If an *ad valorem* duty is imposed, having regard to the large increase of commercial transactions, some amount of revenue may be realised in that way.

Then there is the question of death-duties which has already attracted attention. It is an exceedingly difficult problem, having regard to the intricacies of the Hindu and Muhammadan law; but I think on a carefully considered plan the law may be made to agree with the requirements of the public revenue.

In regard to the expenditure on Forests, as shown in the statements, it did not appear to me that there was any expenditure which might be said to be reproductive. There is nothing like afforestation or the introduction of useful trees or anything of that kind; and we all know that Bengal is nearly denuded of forests except the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the Sunderbans, the Darjeeling district and parts of the Duars. We have apparently no forests, although forests bring in a very big revenue to the United Provinces and Burma.

It has been repeated over and over again, in the course of the last few days that our administration is top-heavy; I do not want to repeat it again, but I find, on looking at the expenditure on industry, that there is going to be a Secretary and staff. It is a new department and we have a Director. What necessity there is of having a Secretary is not quite apparent. Private business firms would think twice before having a staff like that in stringent times.

There is also some expenditure on military assistant-surgeons. If they are military assistant-surgeons and employed on military duty the expenditure should go to the central revenue; but if they are in civil employ, probably, the expenditure should be debited to Bengal. The Financial statement does not, however, show it.

Then, there is the expenditure for purchase of printing presses. aving regard to the fact there is a very large number of private presses nd some of them are well-organised, if there is any extra work which he Government presses are unable to cope with, they might be sent it to the private presses, instead of a capital expenditure being incur-d for the purchase of presses at such a time as this. Then, as regards ndustrial and agricultural education, we have been hearing for some time ast about the schemes formulated by Captain Petavel and others, who ay that these schools may not only be made to pay their own way but ay bring in some revenue.

The speaker, having reached his time-limit, resumed his seat.

Babu BHISHMADEV DAS: The Budget presented for consideration f the Council appears to be disappointing. Its striking feature is hat sufficient attention has not been paid to the urgent needs of the rovince, viz., Education, Sanitation and Agriculture. It is high time hat the masses should be properly educated. The appalling ignorance f the masses is well-known, and the percentage of literate people mongst the depressed classes is very small. Particular care should be aken about the education of these backward classes and the Muhammadans. At present there is a section of the people who do not ask or any help from the Government. On behalf of the depressed classes f Bengal, I appeal to Government to provide a substantial grant for the pread of education among the depressed classes, who from about half f the total Hindu population of Bengal.

Then, as regards the munsifi at Chikandi in Faridpur, there appears o exist differences of opinion regarding its site. The District Administration Committee proposed its removal to a different place. I, therefore, think that the project for construction of buildings for the courts and quarters of the munsifi of Chikandi may safely be postponed. The subdivision at Gopalganj in the same district was created long ago and the people of the subdivision are experiencing great inconvenience for a long time owing to the fact that they have to attend munsifi courts at Bhanga and Madaripur at a great distance. I come to learn from an answer to my question that an estimate of the buildings of the proposed munsifi at Gopalganj has not been received as yet. I do not know the cause of such unusual delay in such an important matter. The people of the subdivision expected that money would be provided for in the next year's budget for the purpose. I hope that the money set apart from Chikandi may be provided for the munsifi at Gopalganj.

I wish to say a few words about the Madaripur Bil route canal and its embankment on the left side. Since the construction of the canal and its embankment the people of the villages on the right bank of the canal are suffering much. The embankment has almost closed the natural outlets of water, and the canal is not a sufficient outlet for the volume of water of the whole area. In the beginning of the rains water

of the canal overfloods the villages on the right bank and damages the *aus* crop, and in the dry season, the continuous flow of water from the canal keeps the pastures under water. Those lands were formerly culturable. In my humble opinion the area may be protected from inundation by one or two sluice gates or any other means the Government thinks fit.

Communication is very difficult in the district of Faridpur. For the greater part of the year the headquarters station is not easily accessible from the interior. The Railway Board is said to have sanctioned a traffic survey for a railway line between Faridpur, Bhanga and Madaripur, but I do not know whether the matter has been taken up in right earnest. The District Board wants to improve the *Tetulia khal* and excavate a khal from Faridpur to Sripur. If this project be carried into effect, it will improve sanitation, agriculture and communication. I hope a liberal grant will be made for this purpose. The people of the interior of Faridpur suffer much for want of medical aid, as there are few good charitable dispensaries. I do not know what would have been the fate of the poor people, if the mission dispensary at Orkandi did not exist. Some of the villages of the Kasiani police station have been almost depopulated by malaria and influenza. The number of daily patients at the Orkandi Mission Dispensary rose to several hundreds. I therefore hope that adequate provision will be made for medical relief in the district of Faridpur.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: Many have been the speeches and several have been the comments on the Budget, and I think mine will be the last straw that will break the camel's back as I fully realise that all the members of the Council are very much tired at this late hour. It is really a sad spectacle to find that our province cannot make two ends meet without drawing on the unspent balances of the past years, and it is also deplorable that whatever increase you make in your expenditure, you are unable to face the vital question of sanitation and medical relief of the country with that amount of attention which they eminently deserve. Ravages of malaria and cholera and many other preventible diseases exact a toll, the like of which can hardly be conceived by any other civilised country. But it is curious that the allotted sums, however paltry on the above subjects in previous years, could not at all be spent, as schemes did not fully mature!

Coming to the Police, may I know what has been the urgent necessity of budgeting Rs. 2,83,000 for acquisition of land for married sergeants of the Calcutta Police, and would the Government really justify the increase of Rs. 64,50,000 in course of only 4 years on the Department of Police alone? But whether you make any increment or not in this department, the net benefit practically remains the same. *Goondaism* is still as rampant in Calcutta as 20 years ago, and detection of crime and criminals no better. Is it seriously conceded that the needs of the

Police Department are more important and urgent than the provision of charitable dispensaries and medical outfit or the question of sanitation, or primary education?

But before proceeding further I like to be disillusioned about one particular point, and that is this: what is the value of these discussions unless we have substantial power to modify, alter and improve the existing state of affairs? Is it simply our pious wish to ask this and that thing as a beggar or have we got any weight which no Government can resist? If it is the former, we have no business to be here but if it is the latter, I would like to know at once why no provision has been made for giving effect to the resolutions that have been carried here by the majority. Will it not be proper to earmark and allocate a decent amount every year to give effect to these resolutions, and motions It is then and then only that we will be able to justify our presence in this Council and our participation in the debates will have some meaning.

Many previous speakers have already lamented on this year's deficit. But I warn my countrymen that this deficit is likely to be recurring, unless and until they can modify and unsettle the settled arrangements consequent on the reports of the Meston Committee I do not understand why Bengal has particularly received this step-motherly attention at their hands, but I say this, that this unjust and inequitable distribution and transfer of our money cannot be tolerated any longer.

I now come to particular items, that are uppermost in my mind The first is a standing disgrace to the Government and the Calcutta Corporation. Need I say that I mean the municipal railway running through the heart of this premier Indian city, carrying abomination and filth in overloaded and uncovered wagons, at all parts of the day It is no argument to say that this item depends solely on the activities of the Calcutta Corporation. But forty years have passed since this question was raised by Dr. Coull Mackenzie, the then Superintendent of the Campbell Medical School, but we are to-day where we were forty years ago. Is it not now time for the Government to intervene?

As a medical man I have got a few suggestions to offer for the improvement of sanitation. Granting that the resources at our disposal are inadequate, instead of providing crumbs to all the districts together, I would like to take up the question of sanitation one district at a time, and a large part of the available resources should be directed to that district alone for that year. It is thus that malaria can be checked, if not entirely prevented, throughout the province in the course of 25 years; otherwise even 125 years will not mend matters.

To check cholera in the rural areas seems to me to be a comparatively easy task. You know, Sir, that cholera is principally a water borne disease, and provision of good drinking water will efficiently mitigate the incidence of this disease. If all our village unions be compelled to provide at least one deep well for public use, every year, I am sure

almost all the villages will get good and uncontaminated drinking water in course of only ten years and that cholera, diarrhœa and dysentery will be a thing of the past. District Boards, Government aid and private charity should all combine to give effect to this humble but reasonable and important scheme.

Sir, as regards the provision for medical education in Bengal, I am aware that the accommodation and resources are exceedingly inadequate in the existing medical colleges of Calcutta, considering the large number of candidates for admission, and instead of two medical colleges, another two colleges should be provided for by raising the status of the existing medical schools at Sealdah and Dacca and the Mayo Hospital and Sambhoo Nath Pandit Hospital should also have a medical school attached to them, as also the districts having first grade arts colleges, such as, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Nadia, Hooghly, Barisal, etc.

Turning my attention to my own district (Faridpur), I am grateful that Government has done something for opening the Madaripur Bil route, but the drainage of Chandana and the removal of silt from its junction with the Padma will improve the health of at least a lakh of the population, and my appeal to Government is to give early attention to this. Our regret is, however, that the Government has eyes which see not, and ears which do not hear, and some specialists are necessary to bring them to their senses.

Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: I regret I do not find any item in the education grant for providing any kind of instruction for our working classes. Evening schools and institutions for working classes have played a great part in Europe and Japan. In fact technical education of a very elementary type, suitable to each particular industry, will mark a new epoch in real industrial education of our province. Once the Government decides on this, they will no doubt get plenty of financial support from owners of industries, who are equally anxious to see our workmen acquire knowledge of technique. I can assure the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education that the cost will not be heavy, and will be more or less supplemented by donations and subscriptions. As an alternative the Government can induce factory owners to inaugurate evening class or Sunday classes for the benefit of the employees.

Referring to the grant for industries on page 122 of the estimate, I find the usual item of fisheries recurring from year to year. Sir, I have personally done my bit for this Industry as a commercial man and have had occasion to criticise the usefulness of this department. Many of you are aware of the dramatic origin of this department beginning from the purchase of the Fishery Trawler "Golden Crown" and the luxurious steam launch for discovering Fauna of Fish in the Bay of Bengal and Sunderbans. Sir, these scientific researches could

have been well done by the Indian Zoological Department What the public wanted was an extension and commercial development of our fresh water and estuarine fisheries, so that supply would increase and new varieties be added to our list of fresh food, and prices come down. Nothing of this kind has happened, and after nearly 12 years' hard work the Department has found its salvation in undertaking the supply of fries of carps to owners of tanks and ponds, a work hitherto done by individual producers. The Department is also taking up the management of Khas Mahal fisheries with a view to increase revenue and so justify its existence.

Sir, I would ask the Minister in charge to look into this matter carefully, and reduce the department into a Fisheries Bureau pure and simple for distributing and publishing fish information without undertaking expensive experiments, such as has been undertaken by my friend, Mr Southwell, the Director of Fisheries, e g., discovery of hilsa fries with a view to propagate them--hatching hilsa and cary spawns and the rest of it. The result was failure from the beginning to the end

Sir, to my mind, half of this grant, viz , Rs. 27,000 (page 122) may be profitably utilised to start a small model evening school somewhere in the centre of the Jute mills for teaching working boys just a little technique of carding, spinning and weaving Jute. The results will more than surprise him, and the mill-owners will thank him, when they will find that they can select supervisors and masters from Indian workmen thus trained, and they will reduce their import of hands from Scotland.

Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI addressed the Council in Bengali.

Babu NIRODE BEHARY MULLICK: The late President of the United States, I mean, President Wilson, has said: "A nation is as great and only as great as its rank and file." I know the term "nation" in India is a misnomer; still I hope I shall not be accused of claiming an undue latitude for the term if I attempt to understand the policy of the Budget, now before the House, in the light of this very democratic maxim.

Take first, the Department of Education. Education has been divided into five parts, namely, University, Secondary, Primary, Special and General. In this connection, I have been struck like other members of this House, by the glaringly inadequate amount set apart for primary education. The Hon'ble Member for Finance voices the sentiment of the whole province when he says that the question of the education of cultivators is pressing. It is now desirable that a sum sufficient to give effect to this sentiment should be provided in the Budget

In the next place, if the rank and file are to be educated, higher and secondary education should not be made a thing of luxury for the few And with this end in view, secondary schools in villages should be

specially encouraged. In villages, not only a considerable number of boys can attend schools from their own homes, but, owing to the well known hospitality of Bengal, a large number can also find comfortable homes in many families—sometimes for nothing and sometimes only at a nominal fee, and this even they can pay in the shape of teaching comparatively well-to-do-boys. Even off-hand I can name several schools which, with a little occasional help from the Education Department, can be made perennially beneficial to a large section of the people.

In the third place, in the matter of Local Self-Government a pure policy of non-interference with district boards and other local bodies will not do. In the constituency which I have the honour to represent in this House, namely the subdivisions of Pirojpur and Patuakhali, to my great surprise, I have found that some villages have more roads, bridges and tanks than are necessary and there are villages too, and their number is considerable, where not a single road or bridge is to be found. It is desirable that the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government should look into the matter, and issue instructions, so that this glaring irregularity may be a thing of the past as soon as possible.

Next, it is not stated in the Budget as to how much money has been specially allotted for Muhammadans and the backward classes. And in connection with this point I should like to put the case of the backward classes at some length. So far as Government is concerned their demands are very few. A few hostels here and there, a few stipends here and there, a few dispensaries here and there, a few grants-in-aid in those places where they burn their own bricks after the day's toil, in order to meet the demands of the Education Department that for certain hours of the day the young boys must sit in an airy and hygienic building if they want education at all—some representation in the administration of the province, a little relaxation of the Bengal Tenancy Act, so that they may remain assured in the enjoyment of the small pieces of land which their forefathers took years to cultivate and fertilise and with which their very soul and heart is associated—these are all their demands, and surely these elementary needs no Government, not to say of the highly civilised Government under British rule, can deny. A noble-hearted Englishman whose name is all the more worthy of respect, as he has chosen to keep himself in secret, has contributed a sum of Rs. 50,000 for the education of the backward classes. This noble example of a generous son of Great Britain ought surely to awaken the Government to their sense of clear duty.

In this connection, I should like to submit that a real responsible Government, capable of withstanding any storm, cannot be established until and unless there has been an all-round progress of all classes. A nation like nature abhors artificiality. By merely swinging the pendulum swiftly from outside you cannot advance the hands of the clock permanently. And indeed even the whole machinery might get wrong to the great detriment of the best interests of the country. If

then there is a desire in a certain quarter to establish a premature self-government by hoodwinking a certain class of England's politicians by any such movement as that of non-co-operation the sooner the idea is banished from Bengal and from India the better. And on the other hand, it behoves those who are responsible for peace and tranquillity and dispensation of even-handed justice to all classes to remove those weak spots, on which the flesh-flies of a handful of non-co-operators work. I, therefore, confidently appeal to the Hon'ble Members and Ministers to consider this side of the question justly, and, may I add, sympathetically. Lastly, I desire to respectfully submit that the policy of the Budget should be so framed that huge sections of the rank and file on which depends the strength of the nation may not be deprived of their due share of State help and patronage.

Babu JOGESH CHANDRA SARKAR: The Budget which has been presented to this House by the Hon'ble Finance Member is after all a deficit Budget, although some of its provisions seem to indicate that it is a prosperity Budget. The prominent feature of the Budget is the neglect of the interest of the masses who bear the bulk of the taxation, and who are urgently in want of relief. The provisions for sanitation, medical relief and primary education are utterly inadequate, and instead of them we find costly schemes, which may well stand over till actual prosperity comes. A lakh of rupees only has been provided for primary education, although primary education may be said to be a panacea for most of the ills, which the masses are heir to, as decreased mortality and improved agriculture are bound to follow in its wake. Thousands die annually of preventible diseases, and it is no compliment to the members of a civilised Government that they look on this scene with indifference and with an easy conscience.

It is pleasing to note that provision has been made for increments in the salaries of ministerial officers and teachers of schools. Revision of salaries was long overdue, but it is a pity that it was begun at the wrong end. Those, whose bank balances were not augmenting as before, were given increments first, and those who were faced with the prospect of one meal a day came afterwards. Would it not have been better, if both the increments were given simultaneously from the next year? Better late than never, and let us hope that the increments to the salaries of ministerial officers and teachers will be adequate.

I am afraid nearly double the amount provided for primary education has been and will be spent on the *Bangabasi* defamation case now pending in the High Court. The case was brought to vindicate the character of an Inspector of Police. So great was the stake that money was and is being freely spent, as if the Government thought that their very existence was jeopardised by the comment of a fifth-rate newspaper. It would have been better if the Government had conducted the case with an eye to economy in view of the hard times which were approaching.

It is gratifying to find that Government have at last thought fit t dispose of khas lands in the Western Dooars with tea leases on receip of a salami. The Hasimara plot of about 1,200 acres fetched a salam of Rs. 1,36,000 at a time when the tea trade was experiencing the utmos depression. If the Government had pursued this policy from befor then there would have been no heartburnings, and at the same time th Government would have been the gainer.

Most of the lands and the climate of the Duars are fit for the cultiva tion of tea which is undoubtedly a more valuable crop than paddy. Bu the woes of the purchaser begin, when he applies for conversion. Th question of adaptability of the soil and climate is frequently lost sigh of in upholding the Government policy of not restricting the cultivatio of paddy which is abundantly grown throughout Bengal, and which ma be and is easily imported by rail to supply local wants. Would it no be better to allow conversion on payment of a fixed salami per acre fo the cultivation of tea, and earn a little revenue? I hope the Hon'bl Finance Member will consider the matter.

The other aspects of the Budget have been thoroughly discussed b the other Members. I will just offer a few remarks. The entire revenu from railways is taken by the Central Government, but the cost of th Railway police amounting to Rs 7,15,000 will have to be borne by th Government. Would it not be fair to ask the Government of India t contribute a moiety at least of the cost of the police? Similarly th revenue for income-tax is taken by the central Government. But i does not appear that the cost of realisation of the tax is paid by them Would it not be fair to ask the Government of India to contribute 1 per cent. of the revenue as cost of realisation?

SHAH SYED IMDADUL HAQ addressed the Council in Bengali.

The PRESIDENT: I have seven speakers more, and as the time i short I propose to sit a half hour longer. Even then I cannot give mor than 10 minutes to each speaker.

Maulvi FAZL-UL HUQ: I have been a silent listener so long, an if I rise to say a few words at this fag-end of the debate, I wish to do s because I feel it my duty to express my own opinion on the points tha have been discussed during these three days. I do not propose to sa anything new or startling and I do not wish to take up the time of th Council by repeating what has been already said before, but will conten myself by merely making a few general remarks.

Sir, it is said that we are on the threshold of a great experiment There are some who have even said that in launching these Reforms th Government have adopted administrative measures, which in thei importance have hardly any parallel in any country in the civilise world. Whether the Indian people have got what they expected, tim

alone will show, but, this much is certain that, if these Reforms are to be any success at all, that success must be attained by the hearty goodwill and co-operation of not merely the officials and non-officials, but of all sections of the community. Sir, I am constrained to say these words, because I have listened to a sort of controversy between certain Indian members and European members. Speaking for myself, I do not wish to see that kind of racial spirit introduced into the discussions in this Council, because I feel that, whether a member is a European or an Indian, he has come here pledged to uphold the gracious message of His Majesty the King-Emperor that under Providence these Reforms will usher in a Government of prosperity, of progress and happiness for the Indian people. If we all come here to make these Reforms a success, it follows that we cannot continue our discussions in a spirit of rivalry or in any manner, in which it may be said that one section of the community was competing unjustly or unduly with another. I remember in this connection the words of Lord Curzon—one of the noblest of his utterances in India. When addressing Europeans and Indians alike he said: "Let the European remember that without the Indian he cannot get on in this country. Let both European and Indian remember that we have to tread along this path for many a long day. Let the Indian feel that he cannot do without the European; and let the European feel that he cannot do without the Indian. Let both try to consecrate a union, which has in it something of the Divine, and let our common ideal be a happier country of a united people." Sir, if this ideal is to be attained, it must be attained not by criticisms, not by a spirit of petty party strife, but on that broader ground of fellowship and sympathy upon which really co-operation can be based.

Sir, I would like to say a few words to the official members of this Council. It is up to every official member to see that extravagances of all kinds are put a stop to. It is most disconcerting to us, who are always ready to work and make the Reforms a success, that we should open with a Budget which shows that the administration is in a state of bankruptcy. It is true that the Government have drawn on unspent balances this year, but it must be remembered that the unspent balances will soon be exhausted, and, unless new avenues of revenue are started we will be in a hopeless plight very soon. Let the officials remember that, if they cannot curtail the expenditure and somehow meet the growing needs of the province, they will only give a handle to the opponents of the Reforms, and make our position in the country doubly insecure. I am speaking quite frankly. We have come here, let there be no mistake about this, against a large volume of public opinion. I wish just to repeat a few words of what Shah Syed Emdadul Haq said in Bengali: "We have come here in the teeth of opposition. We were told that this Reforms scheme is a toy which has been given to the Indians simply to lull them into inactivity. Don't be deceived. We have given them this answer: "We know that we will be able to

co-operate with Government and other sections of the community to work and work for the good and prosperity of our people." Well, Sir if we are faced with a deficit Budget every year and if every year we are told that new taxes have got to be imposed in a country, where the people cannot already bear the taxes that are in existence how can it be said that we will be able to meet our constituents and say that we have been able to make good our promise, and that these Reforms are not meant for retrogression or for want of progress but for a really steady march towards the realisation of the goal, which is really the ambition not only of every Indian but of every European in this country Apart from the suggestions of the non-official members let the official themselves consider whether the expenditure is not in one or two items extravagant. I will not repeat what I have said, but I am sorry to say that the Police Budget has been going up instead of coming down I do not wish to go into the details and suggest, because suggestions have already been made and proposals will be made during voting on the Budget pointing out in what respects in the opinion of the non official members of the Council curtailments can be usefully made but I will say this much that the manner in which the expenditure on the Police Department is going up from year to year is somewhat appalling. During the first year when I entered the Council I remember distinctly it was somewhere near Rs. 90 lakhs, it was a little over Rs. 85 lakhs. Now in the year of grace, 1921, it is nearly Rs. 2 crores It may be that the growing needs of the province require growing expenditure on such an important department, but then there are limits to growth of expenditure, and I will ask the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler to consider whether some room for curtailment is not possible

Then, Sir, as regards Education, I know the Minister in charge has got the amplest sympathy for the aspirations of the Muhammadan community for the spread of Muhammadan education and I know what interest our friend Mr. Hornell takes in this matter. Several years ago I moved in the Council several resolutions for the establishment of an Arts College in Calcutta. I am sorry I see no provision distinctly made for this institution. At least there was no provision in the Budget that was presented to us, and whether any provision is made or not, it is time again to consider if the Arts College is to come—whether it has got to be an apology for an Arts College or a fully equipped Arts College with an efficiency equal to that of the Presidency College or the Dacca College I do not know exactly, but so far as the community is concerned the cry is not now so insistent as it was in 1914-15. I know the cry is less and less for Arts colleges and more and more for technical education. I do not know if the majority of the members of this Council will be able to say something on the subject, but I propose to bring the matter up for discussion after the Budget has been dealt with formally. Then, Sir, Mr. Hornell will remember that there was a committee appointed

to consider various problems connected with Muhammadan education. The committee, of which I happened to be a member, made several recommendations to Government. Some of these recommendations have been carried out, but there are no indications in the Budget as regards many important recommendations, about which some initial expenditure is necessary. I am making a general remark and I leave the matter entirely in the hands of the Director of Public Instruction I do not wish to trespass into the time which is allotted to some other member. I hope the official members will be able to see their way to make some improvements in the Budget and curtail expenditure

Munshi MAKRAMALI addressed the Council in Bengali.

Khan Bahadur KHWAJA MOHAMED AZAM: The Budget as presented to us is a depressing one and does not inspire much hope for the success of the Reforms.

We start with a deficit and have to draw on our unspent balances.

When the Imperial grants were made a few years back, high hopes were raised that some of the crying needs of the province would be partially attended to. Those hopes were not realised, the war was responsible for it. We, however, lived in hope that after the war the unspent balances would be spent for the purpose for which the grants were originally made. But by a strange irony of fate, as a result of the introduction of the Reforms, those balances have been merged in the general revenue, and public health and primary education suffer. We find that there is a great deficit in the Imperial Budget, and it is for the Finance Member of the Government of India to find the means how to meet it.

It would be no justification however to deprive Bengal of its just and legitimate dues. I refer to the duty on jute, for which the Government of Bengal and the people make an unanimous demand from the Government of India.

I am glad to find that the long delayed University of Dacca is now going to be an accomplished fact and I hope it will be established as early as possible, and I trust it will be the means of high education in the true sense of the word.

It is a pity that the Ministers in charge of Public Health, Education, Agriculture, and Industries are not provided with sufficient funds to carry on useful projects. There is no good investing the Council with responsibility and power over important departments of administration without providing adequate funds for the working of the same.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to village Sanitation and vocational Education. These questions should have special and tender care at the hands of the Government.

The money spent on the department of Fisheries has been so long a mere waste, and I think it can better be utilised for more useful purposes,

The hookworm experiments and researches have not produced any appreciable result, nor is the matter of much importance as has been attached to it.

I think we should concentrate our attention on malaria and other epidemics, and, after we have fought those battles and won them, we can take up the question of hookworm and other experiments.

The Government maintains a highly paid officer as Inspector of Civil Courts offices The work entrusted to him can be more economically and more efficiently performed by an experienced member of the Provincial Judicial Service.

Provision has also been made for an Inspector of Septic Tanks. This is a work for which the Divisional Deputy Sanitary Commissioner should be made responsible, and he can have one or two ordinary Sanitary Inspectors to work under him. This will cause a great saving on this head.

Maulvi SHAH ABDUR RAUF: I must thank you, Mr. President, for so kindly allowing me to express my views on the Budget that has been presented to the House for discussion

I must confess, Sir, that the Budget has been placed in our hand at a very late hour. Hardly we were given an opportunity to go into and understand the minor details of it, so as to come forward with more healthy criticisms about them.

At the fag-end of the day and also at the close of the discussion of the Budget I do not like to go into the detailed heads of Receipts and Expenditure, but I would like to discuss the Budget as a whole.

Sir, a perusal of the Budget makes one afraid of a gloomy future We start with a deficit of more than 2 crores of rupees. An attempt has been made to conceal this aspect of affairs from our view by making up the present year's deficit with the closing balance of last year. But embers hidden under ashes always prove dangerous. From the figures on the expendituure side of the Budget relating to the reserved subjects it seems that the Hon'ble the Finance Member, who drew up the Budget took no notice whatever of the deficit; perhaps because, failing to have a sympathetic treatment at the hands of the Imperial Government, our Government means to make up the deficit by fresh taxation. But I assure you beforehand that people would prefer to remain without the blessings of Reforms rather than submit to any taxation, which to the people at large means nothing short of starvation. I believe, Sir, that Government is aware of the present struggle for existence of its subjects. The abnormal high prices of the daily necessaries of life have left very little room to raise funds by compelling people to submit to any taxation. If were much better if, pending the decision of the Imperial Government about our demands, the Hon'ble the Finance Member would have curtailed and postponed some heads of

expenditure in the reserved subjects—heads of expenditure, which can easily be curtailed or postponed for the future.

It is a pity indeed that in the face of this deficit the Government did not hesitate to increase the salary of the high paid officials almost in every department of administration, while men in the subordinate services were still neglected.

I must however congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Member for his ungrudgingly setting apart a sum of Rs. 15,61,000 for the increment of the salary of the heavily-worked and low-paid ministerial officers and menials, but at the same time I cannot but remark that it will hardly bring them the desired and deserved relief.

Sir, since the advent of the new era—the constitution of the Reformed Council—we, members of the Bengal Legislative Council, as well as men outside it, who have faith in the Reforms, have been anxiously looking forward for better days to come, so far as the material progress and prosperity of the country is concerned. We were credulous of the good effects of the Reforms, inasmuch as people, who understand us and our requirements, are there—placed in charge of departments otherwise known as transferred subjects, which have rightly been called "nation-building" departments. Indeed to build up a nation of a country like Bengal, where education of the masses is almost nil, where the sanitary condition of the masses is worse than nothing, and where agriculture is the main source of wealth, where ignorance and poverty go hand in hand, the "nation-building" of such a country truly and rightly depends on the proper administration of the departments of Education, Sanitation, and Agriculture among others, with due care and attention. We have faith in our Ministers, so far as due care and attention are considered; but the "nation-building" will have to be postponed for future years as the present year's Budget gives the Ministers very little material to carry on their "nation-building" work with appreciable result. I will not repeat the figures, that have been allotted to the departments that are in their charge they have been most ably dwelt upon by the speakers who have preceded me.

Sir, we were asked to believe that the Reforms are void of any utility to the country. We lent a deaf ear, but the present Budget, is a chapter of disappointments and the way in which the transferred departments have been dealt with by the Finance Member, almost shakens our belief in the Reforms.

Since the creation of the Council, we have been crying ourselves hoarse for the improvement of sanitation and education of Bengal. We have been trying to bring home to the Government that these are the crying needs of the country. But how meagrely have these subjects been dealt with in the Budget! I quite appreciate the peculiar position of the Ministers, and so I sympathise with them. The Hon'ble Ministers have been placed in charge of departments, which are very,

very important so far as the material progress of Bengal is concerne But have they been given sufficient materials to work on? They m have a sympathetic heart and a willing hand to work; but will tl mend affairs? I am afraid adverse criticism awaits them from th countrymen for no fault of their own.

Franchise has been given to a people, 99 per cent. of whom a literally illiterate. Under such circumstances, is it not indispensal necessary that primary education should be favoured with the imm diate attention of the Government? But the sum set apart for t subject is ridiculously low—it is better not to mention it. I wo ask, what is the utility of asking the people to share in the governm of a country without giving them the requisite education for it? T Hon'ble the Finance Member in his review of the general financial sit tion in the Explanatory Budget book, at page 14, paragraph 9, h himself admitted the importance of the three departments of Educati Sanitation and Agriculture. It is better that I read out those lines—

"A special officer is engaged in drawing up a scheme for t improvement of primary education in Bengal. As soon as some l of action in this matter is decided upon very large expenditure w have to be faced. The necessity for educating cultivators in improv and scientific methods of cultivation is pressing. The need for m money to spend on sanitation and medical schemes, is well known every member of the Council."

But in spite of all these the three departments have been sa neglected. To me it is *kismet*.

In conclusion, Sir, I beg to submit that to make the Reforms success and to avoid any misgivings about them it is necessary that t transferred subjects should have better fate in the Budget so tl people outside the Council may at least feel that they are enjoying t blessings of a new era.

Babu SARAT CHANDRA JANAH: Before proceeding to disc the Budget that has been placed before the House, I very much reg to say that the short time that has been given to the non-official me bers to get themselves acquainted with its contents has greatly han capped them. This is the first Budget after the Reforms and most us are new men. It would have been of great help to us if some tr would have been allowed before the discussion could be taken up.

But, saddled with that great disadvantage, I shall try to say a f words about the present Budget. Sir, I would begin with certain sal facts, about which there cannot possibly be any divided opinion. is a fact, Sir, that India is the poorest country on the surface of t earth. It is also a fact that administration in India is more cos than it need be. Coming to Bengal particularly, it is an admitted f that it is a very poor province, that both the vitality and the span Bengali life has considerably fallen off—that the expectancy

Bengali life is very low—that the birth rate in Bengal is lower than the death rate at present—that the Bengalis are a dying nation. It is therefore quite plain, Sir, that the first duty of the Government—if it is a responsible Government and if it is admitted that the Government exists for the people and for them alone—the first and the foremost duty is to remove those causes and those circumstances which are eating into the very vitals of the nation. Sir, we must live first and then be governed.

The first and the foremost need of the country is education—education on a very large and extensive scale.

In the Budget, Sir, though under the head of Education we find a grant of 1,26 lakhs of rupees, this is only 10 per cent of the total expenditure of revenue and only 4 annas per head of population. If we deduct from it the 14 lakhs of rupees which go for the Dacca University and other purposes, there remains about 1,12 lakhs. Sir, in England, 99 per cent., in Japan 97 per cent., in Bengal only 9 per cent of the people are literate. Still in England we find, Sir, there are 33,000 primary schools in 1918, 1,793 secondary schools, 3,143 technical schools and 18 Universities and the total expenses on education by the Education Act of 1918 are borne by the County Councils and by the Central Government. The Central Government paid £56,081,000= Rs. 84,00,00,000 in the year 1919-20. In Bengal the total population is 46,300,000 and from the fact that about 25 per cent of the whole population is of school-going age, the total number of pupils would be 11,800,000 and the total grant when distributed would be about 13 annas per head of pupil.

We find, Sir, from the statistical accounts of 1913-14 that in Bengal only 23 per cent. of the boys and 5 per cent of the girls are at school. In Japan, on the other hand, 99 per cent. of the boys and 98 per cent of the girls are at school. There are in Bengal about 37,000 schools, *i.e.*, there is one school for about 1,250 persons. But in England there is one school for about 135 persons, leaving aside the Universities. It is needless to say, Sir, that the educational needs of the country are enormous.

There has been a great deal of talking about the grants for European and Anglo-Indian education. Do figures ever talk, Sir? I submit, they do, and sometimes more eloquently than facts, and I would, therefore, place certain figures and ask the Hon'ble Members of the House to draw their own conclusions therefrom.

From the Census of 1911 we find the total number of Europeans and Anglo-Indians in Bengal is 45,246. Taking double this number as an approximate figure for 1921, we see that the total number would be about 90,000, on a most liberal calculation. Taking 25 per cent as the usual number of the population as of school-going age, the total number of pupils would be about 22,500 and the total special grant in the Budget is Rs. 1,99,000, *i.e.*, about Rs. 9 per head of pupil besides the

general grant under the head Education, whereas the expenditure on each head of Indian pupil is something like 13 annas and on the whole population is 4 annas per head.

Then, Sir, we find that of the total expenditure 17 per cent. is for the Police, 10 per cent. for Education, 4 per cent. for Medical, 1·6 per cent. for Public Health, 1·8 per cent. for Agriculture and 1·1 per cent. for Industries. Or, to make the figures clearer, the total expenditure or revenue on each head of population is about Rs. 2-9-6. Out of this each head pays 7 annas to the Police, 4 annas to Education, 1 anna 6 pies to Medical, 6 pies to Public Health, 6 pies to Agriculture, 6 pies to Industries. If a man, Sir, who is illiterate, is half-starved, half-naked, thin and emaciated with various sorts of ailments, strikes out a scheme for expenditure of his income like the one now before us—what would any reasonable and sane man talk of him? I leave it to the hon'ble members of the Council to decide what they would do with such a man. And the Budget before us is exactly the same.

Coming next to agriculture the total area of Bengal is 84,000 square miles. Of this, the area of arable lands is about 50 per cent. or roughly 42,000 square miles or 26,880,000 acres. The percentage of people living upon agriculture is 79 in Bengal; or there are about 34,000,000 people living on agriculture or agricultural labour. Though there are so many agricultural farms and agricultural experts maintained by the Government, their unity is almost nil. We have not seen any improvement in this direction. More money and a thorough organisation is needed not only to spread the results of research, but to make the cultivators adopt improved means of agriculture and manuring. Agricultural capital must be raised. Cattle-breeding and tending of cattle on improved scientific lines much be carried on and demonstrated to the people at large. They should be persuaded to adopt the improved methods by actual demonstration of the results of improvement and research. The total acreage of lands now under artificial irrigation must be increased. In Bengal only 9 per cent. of the cropped area is under irrigation. In fact, there are numerous items on this head, on which money ought to be spent and urgently too. But under this head, we have a grant of Rs. 21,41,000, *i.e.*, about one anna per acre of cropped area and half an anna per head of population.

Then, Sir, with regard to the item of police expenditure, the total grant exceeds the items of Education, Medical, Public Health, Agriculture and Industries put together. The charge under this head has gone up considerably from 1917-18 when it was 1,26,13 to 1,90,85 thousands in 1921-22 and there is an increase of Rs. 27 lakhs over the last year's expenditure. From the Statistical Reports I find that there were 99,424 policemen including superintendents, deputy superintendents, inspectors, sub-inspectors, constables, dafadars and chaukidars in the year 1908. This, of course, does not include the Railway Police and the River Police and the police in the Presidency town. I am sure the

number has considerably gone up since then. Taking the total number approximately as 1 lakh, there is one policeman for every 463 people in Bengal, and the cost on each head of police is on an average about Rs. 190. Let us compare the figures of some other countries. In the four important towns London, Berlin, Hamburg and Bordeaux there were 2 policemen per one thousand population in 1899. There were 14 policemen per 10,000 of population in England, 11 policemen per 10,000 of population in Scotland, 29 policemen per 10,000 of population in Ireland, or 15 policemen per 10,000 of population in the United Kingdom in 1899. The total number of policemen including the London City and Metropolitan police in the United Kingdom was 72,497 on the 29th September 1916. The population of the United Kingdom in 1911 was 45,500,000 hence there was one policeman to 632 people. If the population of London is excluded, then there would be one policeman to a population of about 700 men.

It cannot be urged, Sir, that the number of crimes is greater in Bengal. On the other hand looking into the statistics we find, Sir, that the case is otherwise. Why should Bengal then be compelled to maintain such an extravagant number of policemen at such an abnormal cost?

Taking the number of criminal convictions at an average of 5,000 for each district, which is a very high figure as would be apparent from the average for 1902 to 1911 in the following districts

24-Parganas	...	...	...	19,132
Midnapore	...	...	...	3,800
Faridpur	...	...	...	3,350
Bakarganj	...	...	...	4,910
Dacca	...	...	...	3,710
Chittagong	...	...	...	1,910

there are in Bengal altogether 150,000 convictions But in the United Kingdom, the total number of convictions are:—

	Indictable convictions.	Commitments	Non-indictable offences convictions	Total.
1913	46,913	.....	800,107	847,020
1914	43,968	.....	730,702	774,670
1915	42,808	.....	626,732	669,540
1916	43,546	.....	694,741	738,287
1917	47,329	.....	501,645	548,974

N.B.—Commitments and acquittals are not counted.

The number of offences in Great Britain is therefore five times as much.

Where then is the necessity of maintaining a host of policemen?

From the Administration Report, Bengal, 1917-18, we find th number of political offences in that year came down to only 7 from 37 o the previous year, and surely, there is no case of political offence unde report in the years 1919-20 and 1920-21 in Bengal. We have a very bi branch of police—the Intelligence Department or the C.I.D. whic came into existence in the years 1905-6 and the number of employees i that Department has gone on increasing ever since. Cannot thi Department be got rid of now and Rs. 6,00,000 saved? On a con sideration of all these facts, I am constrained to say, Sir, that th Budget is sadly disappointing, and there is nothing to encourage th members to work on such a Budget. The Reforms are said to hav introduced a new era. I venture to think, Sir, that it would inaugurat a new era of enormous expenditure and would be a veritable whit elephant if the Budget is accepted as it is. Where is the the improve ment? It is on the same beaten track, in the same old groove that th machinery of the Government is driven on! What benefits have th people got? I venture to submit, Sir, it is nothing.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN: There ha already been much discussion on the Budget, and so I do not wish t dilate much on this But there is one point, which I, as a loyal subject of His Majesty, and as a representative of the people in this Council, cannot but make clear to the Government.

I cannot understand the spirit of statesmanship, in which the present Budget, as presented before us, has been framed. I find in the Budget there is a deficit of about 2½ crores of rupees and this is proposed to be met from balances; but I do not think it is wise for the Government to go on without any balance. Moreover, although this deficit has been met from the balances, I see every probability of a similar deficit in future years being met by imposing fresh taxation on the people, who are already overburdened with taxes. So, if people, in order to have relief are tempted to non-co-operate, which is quite natural with every human being, and God forbid if such a contingency ever arises, then I must say Government will be responsible for that, and this I think will be disastrous to the Government and the people alike. So I appeal to the Government to revise the Budget in such a way that there may not be any deficit, and thus save the people from the influence of the unhealthy atmosphere of the day.

Adjournment.

The PRESIDENT: All those who wanted to speak have, I believe, spoken, except one or two members, who are absent. The Council is ajourned till to-morrow, at 3 o'clock, and I will begin with the Government Members, who will speak by way of reply.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on the 3rd March, 1921, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 90 nominated and elected members.

The Budget, 1921-22.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): Order! Order! Mr. Hamid-ud-din Khan was in the list of members desiring to speak. By mistake he was not called upon to speak yesterday I will therefore give him the opportunity of making his speech now

Maulvi HAMID-UD-DIN KHAN: We are under the deep shadow of a great calamity; the alarmingly large deficit in the Budget is sure to prove a source of calamity to the millions of people of Bengal, and is calculated to strike fear into the minds of all concerned A Budget with a deficit of over Rs. 2 lakhs is a Budget of intense dismay and disappointment.

I will not be guilty of betraying secrets, when I say that a few days ago we were given to understand by the venerable old Minister of this Council at the time of discussion of the reduction of Ministers' salary that there is no deficit in the Budget; but, Sir, now we are sorely disappointed for we never thought for a moment of a Budget with such an alarming deficit. We never for a moment thought that we will have to fall back upon the closing balance of last year to swell the receipt side of our Budget with the result of a closing balance of Rs 52,36,000 for next year. We cannot now understand what will be our position next year, unless the Government of India comes to our rescue.

Sir, before going into the details of the different heads of expenditure, I wish to be enlightened by the Hon'ble the Finance Member as to the principle of calculating the heads of voted and non-voted items in the Budget.

The Budget shows on the side of receipts a sum of Rs. 9,71,82,000, but I am sorry to say that the Police Department alone has taken away Rs 1,90,85,000, and thereby swallowed up more than one-fifth of the whole receipts, leaving other important departments to take care of themselves.

Sir, turning to the Police Department we find that a sum of Rs. 2,83,000 will be spent for acquisition of land for married sergeants I do not understand why provision has not been made for the unmarried sergeants, to bind themselves in matrimonial ties as soon as possible But, Sir, I know not why provision has not been made for the poor Indian constables and head constables.

Sir, one will be surprised to think that an allotment of Rs. 1,25,000 has been made for reorganisation of the town police of the 24-Parganas, and another sum of Rs. 20,000 for strengthening the emergency force at Asansol. These provisions may lead one to think that we are on the verge of a revolution: hence there is such an organization.

A glance at the Department of Education will show what amount of care is taken by the Education Department for the advancement of primary education.

	Rs.
For primary education in the mufassal ..	1,00,000
For enhancement of pay of teachers of primary schools ..	40,000

whereas we see a provision—

For the revision of the staff of the Victoria School, Kurseong ...	20,000
For revision of the staff of the Dow Hill School, Kurseong ...	20,000
For additional grant-in-aid to St. Andrew's Colonial Homes, Kalimpong ...	80,000
Additional grant to Loreto Convent, Entally ...	20,000

and what is more—

For works in connection with Dow Hill and Victoria Schools, a sum of ...	70,000

Sir, it is a matter of great shock and surprise that, in spite of the passing of a resolution in this Council for the creation of hospitals in every thana to save the poor inarticulate millions of people of Bengal from malaria and other fell diseases, no provision has been made in the Budget, but we find that a magnificent sum of Rs. 15,000 has been allotted for all the mufassal dispensaries of Bengal. One will surely be shocked at the idea that Rs. 15,000 is provided for all the dispensaries of Bengal, and Rs. 10,000 *only* for the furniture of the Nurses' quarters at the Medical College Hospital.

The most important department of Agriculture has been greatly neglected. In spite of passing a resolution for the establishment of an Agricultural School at Rajshahi the other day, no provision has been made in the Budget, but an allotment of Rs. 5,000 has been made for five farms.

The Government of India has contributed a sum of Rs 1,02,000 for Agricultural education, but we find on page 117 of the White Book a big blank against Agricultural education. What misfortune is this.

I do not like to enter into the details of other heads of expenditure, as the time allotted to me is very short. I wish to make a few suggestions for the probable savings that can be made in the present Budget under discussion:—

(1) A sum of Rs. 2,50,000 may be saved by postponing the development of Kalimpong, as we have Darjeeling as our hill station

(2) A sum of Rs. 1,46,000 may be saved without giving the money as rewards to Excise officers.

(3) A sum of Rs. 1,00,000 by abolishing the Hill and Dacca allowances, together with travelling, of all Heads of Departments, such as Inspector-General of Registration, Director of Revenue, Commissioner of Excise, Member of the Board of Revenue, Inspector-General of Jails, Legal Remembrancer, Inspector-General of Police, Director of Public Instruction, Surgeon-General, Sanitary Commissioner, Director of Agriculture, and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

(4) A sum of Rs. 1,30,000 by stopping the preparation of paper-books in the High Court.

(5) Rs. 1,33,000 for 20 Munsifs and three Sub-Judges, as litigation is decreasing in the mufassal.

(6) Rs. 24,000 by not amalgamating the offices of the Administrator-General and Official Trustee.

(7) Rs. 2,83,000 by stopping for the time being the acquisition of land for married sergeants.

(8) Rs. 1,50,000 by abolishing the Famine Relief Insurance.

(9) Rs. 6,00,000 by postponing the provision for the Lunatic Asylum at Ranchi.

(10) Rs. 30,000 by reducing the band establishment of His Excellency.

(11) Rs. 3,13,000 by postponing the leave allowances likely to be paid by the Secretary of State and High Commissioner to the officers of the Imperial Service on leave in England.

(12) Rs. 1,50,000 and Rs. 2,75,000 for the revision of pay of the higher subordinate staff of the Calcutta Police, and the revision of pay of the Higher Subordinate Executive staff of the Bengal Police, as there is a lump provision of Rs. 2,17,000 for the Presidency Police.

(13) Rs. 65,000 for payment of fees for the design of the Howrah Bridge.

(14) Rs. 1,52,000 by abolishing the Steam Boiler Commission.

(15) Rs. 7,15,000—Railway Police. As the railway income goes to Imperial funds, it is the duty of the Imperial Government to relieve the Bengal Government of the burden.

(16) Rs. 10,00,000—partition of Mymensingh and Midnapore.

By these means we may effect a saving of Rs. 37,00,000, and last of all, the repayment of Rs. 86,58,000 to the Government of India may be arranged to be spread over 12 years, and thereby save Rs. 77,00,000, making a total of nearly Rs. 1,14,00,000 without taking into consideration the loan of Rs. 70,00,000 for the Grand Trunk Canal, which should be postponed for the present.

We have come to this Council against the overwhelming opposition from the country, and why have we come? We have come to make the Reforms a success; but, Sir, unless we can do something substantial for the amelioration of the condition of millions of our countrymen through the medium of Education, Sanitation and Agriculture, this Reforms will not be worth the name.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: May I be permitted to ask the Hon'ble Finance Member if I am correct in my interpretation of the Devolution Rules by which, I think, the whole of the Public Works Department has not been made a transferred subject, because there is a difference between the term "provincial subject" and "transferred subject." If I am correct, in that view, how is it that the whole has been shown as a transferred head in the Budget, and no portion of it as reserved? It seems to me that the allotment of over a crore of rupees refers to works of other departments, and if they be transferred to the reserved head, the proportion will be much lower.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): I am not prepared to give any answer off-hand on the technical interpretation of the Devolution Rules. It is, of course, a fact that the Public Works Department is a transferred department It is also a fact that the Public Works Department, like many other departments, carry out work for the benefit of the whole administration The question of the allocation between the transferred and the reserved departments will be further dealt with in detail this afternoon; I need not say anything more at present.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): I have to deal with the main heads—Excise, Agriculture and Industries. Criticism has been directed mainly against the estimates of expenditure under the head Agriculture and has followed the line that the expenditure is quite inadequate for a department of such importance to a province so largely dependent on agriculture, as Bengal Colonel Pugh has said that it is playing with the subject, and has urged the department to "Wake up and get a move on." But, Sir, I may point

out that there are certain preliminaries to the inclusion of a proposal for expenditure in a demand for a grant. If the scheme requires the sanction of the Secretary of State or the Governor-General in Council, it is obligatory to obtain such sanction before provision can be made in a demand for a grant, under rule 27, sub-rule (1) of the Devolution Rules. Where such sanction is not required, it is still necessary to prepare the scheme and send it to the Financial Department for examination and advice before provision can be made for it in the estimates. Rule 37 (*g*) (*iii*) of the Devolution Rules lays down that the Financial Department shall examine and advise on all schemes of new expenditure, for which it is proposed to make provision in the estimates, and shall decline to provide in the estimates for any scheme which has not been so examined. I assumed charge of my office on the 3rd of January last. The Budget estimates had to be more or less cut and dried before the end of that month. I submit, Sir, that it is unreasonable to complain that Ministers have not matured new schemes and included them in their demands for grants, since in the time available it was absolutely impossible for them to do so.

I turn now to more particular criticisms, and deal first with Excise. Mr. Travers has suggested that the Excise revenue might be increased by enhancing the duty on excisable articles. This is a possibility which Government does not lose sight of. The duty on country spirit is enhanced from time to time both to increase revenue and to check consumption. The selling price of excise opium has been raised from Rs. 50 to Rs. 60, with effect from the 1st April next. Only yesterday the rates of duty on liquors of a foreign description, such as beer, rum and gin, manufactured in Bengal, were raised appreciably in consonance with the increased Customs duty imposed by the Government of India on imported liquors of the same kind.

The expenditure under the head "Excise" shows an increase of Rs. 4,41,000 over the revised estimates for the coming year. The bulk of this increase, namely, Rs. 3,85,000, provides for the revision of pay of the Superintendents and Inspectors of Excise. The Excise Department raises a large portion of the total revenues of the province, and, to protect these revenues, it is essential that the officers of this Department should be able, reliable and contented. The policy of Government has been to secure for the Superintendentships of Excise men of the same class as Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collectors, and for the Inspectorship men of the same class as Sub-Deputy Collectors.

The pay of the Deputy Magistrates has lately been increased, while the revision of the pay of Sub-Deputy Collectors is under consideration. In order that there may be no falling-off in the class of officers recruited for the Excise Department, it is essential that their pay and prospects should also be improved.

The next head with which I am concerned is Agriculture. This main head includes the Veterinary Agriculture, and Co-operative Credit Departments. Under the detailed account No. 34 A (Veterinary charges) we have been able to make provision for the appointment of 15 additional veterinary assistants and two additional veterinary inspectors. Detailed account No. 34 B deals with the Agricultural Department. Provision has been made for two new appointments, which have long been felt to be necessary, namely, a Deputy Director of Sericulture and a Deputy Director of Agriculture. The work of the Sericultural Department is of such importance, and has reached such a stage of development, that the services of a Deputy Director to administer the department are essential. As regards the Deputy Director of Agriculture, it has been the aim of Government for some years past to have a Deputy Director of Agriculture for each division in the province. At present there are only three Deputy Directors of Agriculture and two more are therefore required. These posts could not be filled up earlier owing to the difficulty of recruitment during and immediately after the war, but there is reason to hope that it will be possible to secure one officer during the coming year. Provision has also been made for the appointment of 55 demonstrators. The work of the Agricultural Department falls into two main divisions—research and demonstration. The work of research must come first, but, when definite results have been arrived at, they must be demonstrated to the agricultural population. The Agricultural Department have now definite results, such as improved seed for jute and rice, to bring to the notice of the public, and it is the policy of Government to go on year by year increasing the number of demonstrators. Government hope that with the completion of the programme for the construction of farms and the multiplication of small agricultural associations, there will eventually be one demonstrator for each police-station in Bengal. The provision of Rs. 5,000 for the establishment of five new farms, I may explain, is not intended for the construction of new farms. This sum is required to provide certain staff or establishment for new farms which have already been, or are being, started. A member of the Council has expressed regret that no provision has been made for an agricultural school at Rajshahi in compliance with a resolution passed by the Council during its last meeting. I may refer again to the rules which I have already quoted, and point out that it is not permissible to make provision for this purpose until a scheme has been prepared and examined by the Finance Department.

I come now to detailed account No. 34 C—Co-operative Credit. This is a young and growing department and provision has been made for its expansion during the coming year. The rapidity of its growth may be judged from the fact that in the year ending on the 30th June last the total number of societies increased by almost 1,200, and an ever greater increase is expected during the current year. On the 30th

June last the working capital of the societies then in existence was Rs. 2,82,61,000. A financial crisis among these societies would clearly be a disaster of great magnitude, and it is essential that the standard of inspection laid down by Government should not be relaxed. In order to maintain it at its present level, additional officers are necessary, and for this provision has been made.

Under the head "Industries" a sum of Rs. 79,000 has been provided for the improvement of mining education. Mining education is a very important matter, which has been neglected in the past, and the present arrangements are admittedly quite inadequate. The scheme will be of immediate benefit to the province, as it will turn out men fit to be foremen and assistant managers of coal mines. There is a large demand for men of this class, and the passed students will have no difficulty in finding suitable and remunerative employment. In this connection also provision has been made of Rs. 9,000 for the erection of a mining lecture hall at Sitarampore for the development of evening classes in mining.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): I have listened with great interest and close attention, and may I add, with some patience—when the same point was repeated by more than 30 different speakers of the 58 who spoke—but none the less, I have listened with attention to the many interesting speeches delivered by so many members of this House. I may say at once that although I have been strongly criticised, yet I feel every sympathy with my critics, and when I say that, I may assure the House that I do not use any language of convention. I shall at once tell the House why I sympathise with my critics. Sir, when I am criticised and when I criticise others, I often try to place myself in the position of those whom I criticise, or who criticised me. I often find that this is a habit very helpful in being just to one's opponent. Applying this rule of conduct here, Sir, what do I find? The members of this House have sought election at great personal sacrifice, in spite of strong opposition from the enemies of Reforms, and in some cases in spite of ridicule and obloquy. They have entered this House with a keen desire to serve their Motherland, and with high hopes of rendering useful service; as enthusiasts they are naturally anxious to do great and good work; they are naturally impatient and are anxious to start their work with as little loss of time as possible. They naturally feel disappointed if they find that one year out of the very short period of three years is going to be wasted. From their point of view, therefore, need we wonder if they feel strongly, or if they feel disappointed, they use strong criticism, nay, perhaps, bitter criticism at times? Should we be surprised if some of them, in their impatience and enthusiasm, have been tempted to use language somewhat extravagant, and have expressed sentiments, which I have no doubt they themselves in their cooler moments will regret? Then again, let us remember the nature of the Budget they

have been discussing after a somewhat cursory examination of it—for we must remember that the time at their disposal was none too long—and in this connection may I make, Sir, a confession. Two or three days after I entered upon the duties of my office, a skeleton Budget was placed in my hands, and I must frankly confess that after a cursory perusal of those Budget papers, I also felt keenly disappointed, and my feelings at that moment were somewhat similar to those of some members of this House, but when I found the time and the opportunity to look into these papers more carefully, when I went into them more fully, I realised that the Budget was not really so bad as a cursory examination of it led me to apprehend; and when I finally tried to think out cooly and clearly the possibilities of the Budget, I came to the deliberate conclusion that in many cases there was enough money in the Budget to keep me,—and those of my countrymen who, like myself, are anxious not to lose a day or even a moment in starting our great work—fully occupied for the year 1921-22. Lastly, there is one all-important fact, which we must not overlook in judging the criticisms—the bitter criticisms—of many members of this House, namely, that the Budget is admittedly not a satisfactory one, and, regard being had to the manner in which the Government of India have treated us up to the present moment, it cannot be a satisfactory one; and no one knows that better than the Finance Member, who has so kindly and frankly explained the defects in the Budget in his illuminating speech. For these reasons, Sir, I am perfectly sincere when I say that I sympathise with my critics and I bear no resentment against them for their criticisms. The first point which the House has to consider is this: Is the Budget as satisfactory as it could be in view of the limitations imposed upon us by authorities over whom we have no control?

The next point the House ought to consider is whether we have enough money to take up immediately some of our cherished activities in the nation-building departments. I trust that I shall be able to convince the House, at any rate the majority of the members, that with regard to both these questions only one answer is possible, and that answer is in the affirmative.

Sir, I desire to make another remark of a preliminary nature, namely, that we, the Ministers, are not really responsible for this Budget. If the members will turn to page 29 A of Mr. S. M. Bose's book named "The Working Constitution in India," they will find that section 37 clause (*g*) sub-clause (*iii*) of the Devolution Rules, lays down some of the duties and the functions of the Finance Department. The sub-clause says that that department has to "examine and advise on all schemes of new expenditure for which it is proposed to make provision in the estimates, and shall decline to provide in the estimates for any scheme which has not been so examined." Now, Sir, when we remember further that, under the rules of the department, schemes have got to be sent up, so far as my department is concerned, to the Accountant

General before the 7th or 10th of November, the House will be able to realise that, so far as we, the Ministers, are concerned, who entered upon their duties on the 3rd January last, it was not possible for us to formulate or frame any schemes. The statutory provision of the rules which I have just read to the House, ought to convince the members that neither the Ministers nor the Finance Department had any option in the matter. The Ministers may have had many pet schemes. Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur has pointed out that the Ministers are tried men—at any rate it is to be expected that they ought to be tried men. I agree with the Rai Bahadur, but I certainly expected that, before a member of the House of the ripe experience of the Rai Bahadur took upon himself to make a criticism of this nature, he should have read the Devolution Rules which, after all, are statutory rules. It is also to be expected that, if members are to offer helpful criticisms and helpful suggestions, they should be more informed about their criticisms, and it is to be expected and it is not too much to expect that the members of this House should be familiar with all the statutory rules.

Sir, I do not desire to dilate on this point further. I think that it ought to be pretty obvious, that we, the Ministers, are not really responsible for this year's Budget. If in the next year's Budget there are just grounds for criticism, we shall be perfectly willing to undertake responsibility. But, although I say that we are not responsible for this Budget, my remarks must not be taken to mean that the old Government did not do its duty. When I have placed certain facts and certain materials before this House, I am sure the majority of the House will be convinced that so far as my department is concerned, it tried its best, as it has provided enough money.

Some of the criticisms and suggestions made by the members of this House are of a specific nature, but others are of a general character. I propose to examine many of the important criticisms, but I am afraid the time at my disposal, even if I speak at length, will not be enough for the purpose. I desire to take up first of all the all-important criticisms, of a very, very specific nature, repeated perhaps by 30 or more speakers, that I have neglected the interest of primary education in this province by providing only one lakh of rupees—mark the figure, only one lakh—in this year's Budget. I desire, with the leave of the House, to take up this question first.

We have been told repeatedly that the provision is a provision of Rs. 1,00,000. I suppose it will surprise many members of this House who have not perhaps had the time—or they will pardon me if I say—they had not the inclination to look into the Budget more carefully, for they will find that there is a provision for Rs. 31,52,000 and not Rs. 1,00,000. I do not ask any members of this House to take me on trust, but if they will only refer to the Civil Budget estimate, which has been placed in their hands some time ago, what will they find? They

will find, on turning to page 95 of the Civil Budget estimate, that there is a provision for Rs. 1,04,000 for primary schools, made up of Rs. 49,000 for primary schools, Rs. 17,000 for zenana schools, and Rs. 38,000 for circle school grant—altogether Rs. 1,04,000.

Turning next to page 99 of the Budget, they will find a provision for Rs. 4,48,000 for *Guru*-training schools, and I may remind the House that this is a provision of some importance, for if you have to tackle the question of primary education, we must not only aim at increasing the number of our pupils, but we ought to aim at improving the quality of teachers. I do not claim for one moment that the *gurus* turned out from the *guru*-training schools are not above improvement. But certainly here is an attempt to improve the teachers of primary schools. On that very page, if the members will turn to the last column, they will find that, according to the "Accounts" of the last year, the total sum which was spent that year was Rs. 2,79,000, or, in other words, we have provided for Rs. 1,61,630 more for *guru*-training schools than what was spent last year.

Now the next item to which I will draw the attention of the members of this House is an item at page 104. There they will find that the fourth item provides for Rs. 24,84,000 as grants-in-aid to primary schools alone.

Now below this item there is an item for zenana classes for Rs. 3,000, which is also for primary education. Then, right at the end of that page, the last but one item is a special grant of Rs. 1,51,000, out of which Rs. 1,00,000 is for primary education. But here I cannot justly say that there is enough explanation to indicate to the members of this House that this item has reference to primary education. As regards the other items, there is enough explanation in the Budget itself. If the members will turn to the last column—Accounts of last year—they will find that only Rs. 19,64,794 were spent in grants-in-aid to primary schools, but this year we have provided Rs. 24,84,000, that is to say, we have provided Rs. 5,20,000 in grants-in-aid more than we spent last year, and we have provided an additional sum of Rs. 1,00,000 in the special grant item.

If the members will turn to page 105, under the head Scholarships in primary schools, they will find that Rs. 10,000 has been provided for this purpose, as against Rs. 5,921 spent last year. Then at page 103, under the head Miscellaneous—the last but one item—zenana education by central gathering, there is a provision for Rs. 3,000. Here, again, I am free to admit that it is not possible for members to understand that this Rs. 3,000 was for primary education. Now, if we add these items, we find that the exact sum provided for primary education next year for this province is Rs. 31,52,000 and further, if we will compare the column of the "Budget estimates" and the column of the "Accounts, 1919-20," we find that this year we have provided Rs. 8,26,004 more than

what was spent last year. The criticism that for the province of Bengal I have provided only Rs. 1,00,000 on primary education is, therefore, based on misapprehension.

Now, Sir, I desire to convey some further information to the House. This year, within the six or seven weeks that I have taken charge of my office, I have arranged to pay Rs. 3,00,000 to the Calcutta Corporation for their primary education scheme; and the Corporation, I understand, is going to provide Rs. 5,00,000 in their Budget; and I may mention here that this Rs. 3,00,000 comes out of a provision for the current year, made by the old Government which has been criticised so strongly by so many members of this House, and in the Budget, which I hope you will soon pass, there is a further provision for Rs. 3,00,000 for primary education in Calcutta.

I may inform the House that I have arranged to pay this year Rs. 6,000 to the Rangpur Municipality, which placed before me only very lately, a definite scheme, through our special officer, Mr. Biss. The Rangpur Municipality, I am glad to inform the House, has agreed to impose an education tax of 1·6 per cent., and they are going to provide free primary education. I congratulate the Municipality of Rangpur on its public spirit. Out of the 116 municipalities we have in Bengal, Rangpur—a comparatively poor municipality with a population of 16,000 has been the pioneer. I trust that other municipalities will come forward and follow the lead of Rangpur. I have already given directions to make over Rs. 6,000 to Rangpur this year, as soon as certain preliminaries are settled. I desire to inform this House that within the short period that I have been in office I have arranged to pay a further sum of Rs. 10,000 to three union committees in the district of Khulna, through the District Board of that district. The District Board of Khulna forwarded to me lately a definite scheme relating to three union committees at Tala, Arulia and Bagerhat, within the district of Khulna, and I have arranged to make over to them Rs. 10,000, the full amount of their demand. As I have commended the action of the Rangpur Municipality, I take this opportunity of commending the action of the District Board of Khulna and of the union committees mentioned. I believe there are many members of this House who are also prominent members of some of the District Boards of Bengal. I desire to convey this message through them to those who are not here, that if the district boards of Bengal will try and follow the good example of Khulna the question of the primary education in rural areas will soon be solved. Therefore, Sir, within the short space of less than 8 weeks, thanks to the provision made by the old Government, I have been able to arrange to pay before this official year is at an end Rs. 3,16,000 in the cause of extension of primary education. May I not also claim this, that during this official year, the only self-governing bodies, which showed signs of self-help and were ready with their schemes were helped by the Government, and for this help the House ought to thank not me, but the

old Government who provided the money. It is sad to reflect that out of the 116 municipalities—I am including Calcutta and 25 district boards—altogether 141 self-governing bodies of this great province—only four have come forward, with definite schemes. I trust the self-governing bodies will stimulate the enterprise and the public spirit of these four I have shown that I have provided Rs. 31,52,000 in the Budget for meeting the demands of primary education of this province. I have also shown that I have provided for Rs. 8,26,104 more than what was spent last year. I am willing to make this statement that I will help every local body in Bengal, who will come forward with definite schemes embodying an adequate amount of self-help and that I have money for the purpose in this much criticised Budget. I shall explain to the House why I consider that I have sufficient money for the purpose but I would remind the House that the explanation will embody my provisional ideas on the subject, which I might change later on. Now take first of all the district boards. It stands to reason that without the help of some local organisation it will not be possible for the district boards to start primary schools in any locality. There must be some village union board or union committee, or some local committee which must be responsible for the management of local schools. Of the local bodies I mentioned I prefer village union boards. Let me assume for the purposes of an illustrative calculation that a new primary school can be started in a village union board for Rs. 40 a month. Let me also assume that in a particular district only 20 more village union boards can be started next year. Then, altogether Rs. 800 a month will be all that will be necessary for a district—out of that the local people ought to be able to find half the expense and the remaining half may well be divided between the Government and the district board, so that the total increased expense to each district board will be Rs. 200 a month or Rs. 2,400 a year, and to the Government for all the district boards will be Rs. 60,000 only—a figure well within the Rs. 8,00,000 and odd we have this year over and above the actual expenses of last year.

Now take the mufassal municipalities. I realise that the mufassal municipalities are mostly poor. Take an ordinary district town with a population of somewhere between 30,000 or 40,000. There are a few houses of pleaders, the *basabaries* of a few zamindars, and houses of a number of officials and a number of poorer people who cater for these people. There is no industry, unless we call litigation an industry. That being the position of a district town, I cannot expect that many of them will be able to find much money for primary education, but at the same time men of considerable public spirit reside in some of these district towns and men of some wealth too are not wanting. If they would only exert themselves it ought not to be difficult for many district towns to follow the example of Rangpur. If they provide for

free primary education as Rangpur has done the expense will be comparatively high, but if they cannot for the present provide for free primary education, they can easily provide for increased expenditure with a view to improve the quality of teaching and increase the number of pupils. This ought not to cost much.

But the move must come from the municipalities first. As I have just now said, each district town may provide for free education—which will mean more expense to them—and I shall be prepared to help them on a liberal scale. But, if the district towns are not prepared to provide for free primary education, at any rate it is up to them to increase their expenditure on primary education. For instance, if a municipal town spends only Rs. 500 a year, it is up to it to increase the expenditure to say Rs. 750. In that case I am willing to pay the amount by which they increase their expenditure. I hope my Hon'ble friend, Babu Surendra Nath Ray, who is the author of the Primary Education Act, will lead the way in his own municipality before the year is out by formulating a definite scheme of free and compulsory primary education, and I promise that, if his municipality shows adequate signs of self-help, I, on behalf of Government, would come to the rescue of that municipality. But signs of self-help must be adequate. I cannot be unjust to any part of the province. I cannot tax Tippera to pay 24-Parganas. This House, I hope, will now appreciate that there is enough money for extension of primary education.

Now, Sir, I desire to deal shortly with the possibilities of development of primary education next year. In the year 1919-20 altogether Rs. 49,45,000 was spent on primary education in this province. Out of this sum the provincial revenues contributed Rs. 17,00,000 and odd, the different district boards contributed Rs. 7,00,000 and odd, the municipalities a little more than Rs. 1,00,000, and Rs. 18,46,000 were collected in fees, etc. I am glad to see all round a very healthy sign of a demand by the people themselves for education. The fees collected in primary and secondary schools and other educational institutions amounted to a high figure and this shows that the people are willing to pay for the education of their children according to their ability. Then there are the endowments which yield Rs. 6,000 and odd and the subscriptions amount to Rs. 5,00,000 and odd. The provincial revenues, as I have said before, contributed Rs. 17,00,000 and odd. This year we have provided for over Rs. 31,00,000 in the Budget, and, if necessary, we can pay at least Rs. 13,00,000 more than what we did last year. If we spend Rs. 13,00,000 more our total will come up to Rs. 30,00,000 and if the local bodies come forward with another Rs. 30,00,000, then the total will be Rs. 60,00,000, and if from other sources, such as from subscriptions and endowments, another Rs. 28,00,000 can be raised it will be possible to spend Rs. 88,00,000 next year in place of Rs. 49,00,000 of this year. I am sure the House will agree with me that this will mean a very great advance for one

year. If, however, the local bodies are not able to pay as much as Rs. 30,00,000 it ought not to be difficult for them to pay at least Rs. 15,00,000, and if they do so, the Government will also come forward with adequate help and perhaps the total expense on primary education next year will come up to Rs. 60,00,000 or Rs. 65,00,000—an increase of about 33⅓ per cent.

I have appealed to the public spirit of self-governing bodies and I hope the members of this House will not take me amiss if I take this opportunity of reading out to them only one sentence from the remarks of a Divisional Commissioner in forwarding a number of schemes from the municipalities of his Division relating to the proposal for free and compulsory education. The Commissioner says: "It appears that none of the municipalities in this Division is willing to enhance its educational grant or to levy education cess, but every one wants Government to bear the entire cost." If it be the desire of this House that the Government should bear the entire cost, speaking for myself, I shall be quite willing to provide for the money, but the House should consider what it would mean. If a particular locality is benefited it is to be expected that that particular locality should bear a fair share of the cost for their benefit, but if the House in its generosity say: "No, let the whole province bear the burden for the improvement of a particular locality," and if they vote the grant for the purpose, I would be quite willing to accept the decision of the House after I have pointed out to the members that it would be unfair, unjust and wrong to tax say Chittagong for the benefit of Hooghly and *vice versâ*. But if in spite of my warning the members want to tax the whole province for the benefit of a particular locality, it would be their responsibility and not mine.

My friend, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, in the course of his observations, remarked that the Ministers should have taken the members of the Legislative Council into their confidence. So far as I am concerned, and I daresay so far as my colleagues are concerned, we are perfectly willing to do this. I have often tried to place my information at their disposal, subject to the limitations imposed on me by the oath of my office, but I regret to say that this willingness on my part has not been fully appreciated and full advantage of this has not been taken. If full advantage of this offer were taken, then the time of the Council would not have been wasted—the House will pardon me if I use the word "wasted," because I feel that criticism based on misapprehension amounts to a waste of public time—the time of the Council would not have been taken up by thirty or more speakers repeating that there was only Rs. 1,00,000 provided for primary education and not Rs. 31 lakhs.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I never said one lakh of rupees. I said only one lakh more.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I have explained clearly that it was at any rate Rs. 8,00,000 more and it would have been quite easy for me to show that it was Rs. 8,00,000 more. But let bygones be bygones. I have made the offer before and I repeat it now that, subject to the oath of my office, I am willing to place all available information at the disposal of members of this House.

Another criticism of a general character, directed against me and the other Ministers, was that we had not formulated any scheme or programme. True we had no schemes, nor had we laid down any policy. I may at once say that this criticism is a natural and proper one, but I would desire the House to listen to our side of the case before they come to any conclusion. It stands to reason that the all-important point in a programme is its financial aspect. But here we are in a position of financial uncertainty. We do not know whether the Government of India will come to our rescue or not. If the Government of India help us, our programme would be of a certain character. But, if on the other hand the Government of India do not come to our rescue, our programme must be of a different type. Then there is another point which I would like the House to consider. I conceive it to be my duty as a Minister not to force any programme or any scheme on this House—it is certainly my duty to think out a suitable programme—but I conceive it to be my duty after I have thought out a suitable scheme or programme to consult, at any rate informally, the majority of the members of this House, consider their constructive suggestions and then to place that programme definitely before the House. Had we time to do all that within such a short period as seven or eight weeks, a good portion of which was taken up by discussion in this Council? Is it not desirable that programmes and schemes, which are of vital importance to the province, should be thought out carefully in moments of leisure, if leisure be possible to the life of a Minister; but at any rate in moments of comparative leisure. The financial aspect of the programme should also be carefully thought out. I promise that, as soon as I have a little more leisure, I will flood the members of this House with various programmes and schemes, and only hope that they would give that amount of attention to those programmes and schemes, which I have a right to expect of them. This criticism has come from, amongst others, my esteemed friend, Colonel Pugh, and I do not wonder at it. To a Britisher brought up in the traditions of parliamentary institutions and party politics the first natural question to ask of a public man would be—What is your programme? But Colonel Pugh perhaps forgot that the limited form of self-government which we have in Bengal is a new experiment. Parties are yet in the process of formation, opinions have not yet crystallised, and as this is the first sitting of the Council, the Ministers in Bengal have not the opportunity, like the Ministers in other self-governing countries, where there are two different parties with the

broad outlines of their respective programmes to go upon. So although the question is a natural one to strike a gentleman in Colonel Pugh's position, I daresay, if he reflects over the question more carefully he will find that it is premature for us to formulate a definite programme at the present moment. I may add that more harm than good will be done by hasty programmes.

Another criticism of a general character which has been levelled against us is—Why is there no proposal for taxation? Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri, for example, suggested taxation on Stamps; Mr. Travers suggested taxation on Excise. I have always welcomed constructive suggestions, and I welcome these. But I may mention that in December 1917 in a memorandum attached to Mr. Lionel Curtis' book on the "People of India," I pointed out that amongst others these two items were possible sources of taxation. Although these are possible sources of taxation, yet there is one good reason why I object to any fresh taxation at the present moment. I feel that it will not be right at the present moment to tax our province merely because the administration is changed. It will not be right to tax Bengal, when the people will not be getting any advantage from that taxation. The deficit in the Budget is due to the limitations imposed upon us by the Government of India. I feel it will not be right to impose any fresh taxation for carrying on the ordinary administration of the reserved and transferred departments. If in future we improve education, or sanitation, it may be quite open to us to come forward with schemes for fresh taxation. But to tax Bengal for the purpose of making up the deficit, for which Bengal is not responsible, to my mind would be unjust.

Another criticism levelled against us is: Why did we allow Rs. 86,00,000 of loan to be paid off? As regards this point—I am only referring to the matter from the point of view of the Ministers—my short answer is that we are in no way responsible for the repayment of the loan. The Budget will show that this sum did not form any part of this year's grant. It is mentioned there merely for the purpose of information. Whether the action taken by the old Government was right or not, I daresay the Finance Member will give a satisfactory answer. But it is enough for my purpose to say that we are in no way responsible.

Another criticism is—Why were earmarked grants allowed to be swallowed up? What is to be done later on, say next year? In the first place this is mainly a point for the Finance Member to answer and I daresay he will give the House convincing reasons. But I may point out, as I have already pointed out, that under the Devolution Rules it was not open to us to frame schemes for utilising any sums, nor could we keep the money in a separate chest so to speak. Therefore, if we had merely retained these sums without utilising them, it would not

have done anybody any good. Furthermore, it would have done the province a good deal of harm. Supposing, if we had kept the total amount earmarked for education in a sort of separate chest so to speak, it would have been necessary this year to tax the province to the extent to which we retained the earmarked grants. The various suggestions of retrenchment put forward by many members of this House may result in the saving of a few lakhs of rupees, but the deficit as you know is of a much larger amount, so that, if we had retained the money earmarked for our departments, the province would have been faced with taxation of over a crore of rupees limiting my remarks to the earmarked grants of my department only.

There is another thing which I desire to state to the Council. The Members on the Executive side of the Government never denied our moral right to these earmarked sums, and they will never deny it. Now, under the Devolution Rules, if any further taxation be imposed the Government will have to proceed under section 30, the provision of which is this:—

All proposals for raising taxation or for the borrowing of money on the revenues of a province, shall, in the case of a Governor's province, be considered by the Governor, with his Executive Council, and Ministers sitting together, but the decision shall thereafter be arrived at by the Governor in Council, or by the Governor and Minister or Ministers, according as the proposal originates with the Governor in Council, or the Governor and Ministers.

So that if this money be required for the reserved departments the proposal will originate from the Member of that department, but I suppose it will be poor consolation to our province as to whether the proposal for taxation originates from the reserved department or the transferred department. The nett result of keeping this money in a sort of separate chest would have been immediate taxation. On the other hand there is the prospect of the Government of India coming to our rescue. Supposing they do not, then it will be open to us to think out schemes of retrenchment. We have six or eight months before us and we can formulate well thought out schemes of retrenchment and not hasty suggestions here and there, and we may also formulate schemes of taxation if the members think we should have taxation. Speaking for myself, I am opposed to taxation to meet ordinary expenses though for increased expenditure of the transferred departments and for public good I would not oppose taxation.

Another criticism, which has been levelled at us, is—On what principle did we consent to the division of 65 and 35 per cent? Here, too, the Finance Member will deal with this question and he will be in a better position to deal with it effectively, but, as I have already pointed out, we are not responsible for the division between 65 and 35 per cent. The question of division would have properly arisen, if we were

responsible for the Budget. Furthermore, we took the percentage as we found it, as the old Government was responsible for the Budget. No schemes could possibly be put in and no scheme was put in by us. The House should also consider that we cannot lay too much stress as to the percentage. Should not our view-point be whether a certain expenditure in the reserved or in the transferred department is really for the good of the people or not? It may be quite conceivable that in a transferred department sums may be spent which do not really benefit the people. It may be equally conceivable that in a reserved department sums may be spent for the benefit of the people. So I have no doubt that the House will concentrate its attention on whether a sum spent is for the benefit of the people or not.

Sir, I have already taken up the time of the Council at such length that I am afraid I shall not have much time to deal with any specific points, to which my attention has been drawn, but I shall deal with some of the more important of them. With regard to the allotment of funds between the Calcutta and Dacca Universities, I find that some of my friends have criticised me for allotting more funds to the Dacca University than I should have done. And some others criticise, saying that I have given practically nothing to Dacca. To this my first answer would be that this year's Budget is not my Budget. But, apart from that, even within the short time that I have been here, I have tried to help both the Calcutta and Dacca Universities. As regards Dacca, it had a large earmarked grant, amounting to about Rs. 60,00,000. Therefore, I have alloted Rs. 9,00,000 to Dacca and those who have spoken in favour of the Calcutta University have no legitimate right to complain. As regards Calcutta, I am sorry to say that the old Government was powerless, because the Calcutta University never came forward with any demand in proper time. So far as I am concerned, I practically went out of my way to say that I would be prepared to consider favourably any demand made by the Calcutta University, but at the same time I took care to add that I could only do so after the whole Budget was passed, and, only if I could effect a saving out of the Budget grant. I daresay that if the Calcutta University had helped itself and placed its demands or schemes before the old Government, that Government would have favourably considered the demands or schemes of that University. But I will promise this, that I shall try to do my best for the Calcutta University, for after all it is my *alma mater*.

With regard to my friend, Babu Surendra Nath Ray, who wanted to know what had become of the lakh of rupees which were earmarked for primary education in the current year's Budget, I may tell him that Rs. 50,000 was reappropriated by the Financial Department in September last, and practically the remaining Rs. 50,000 I have managed to spend since I came to office.

Raja Maniloll Singh has requested me to consider the case of the Sub-Registrars sympathetically. I promise that I shall do my best.

There are various other points to which my attention has been drawn. It is not possible to deal with those points without encroaching too much on the time of the Council. Sir, I have tried to explain my position in the matter. It will be for the House to consider whether the criticisms which they put forward have been properly met or not, but I venture to think that I have tried to meet those criticisms properly.

Before I conclude, Sir, may I appeal to this House that in considering the questions on Budget proposals, the House should lay to heart what our future Viceroy, Lord Reading only yesterday said. Speaking at a large gathering of Indian students and in response to the call of Indian students, Lord Reading declared that the political idealists, who had most influenced him, were Gladstone, Morley and Campbell-Bannerman. Political idealism finds modern expression in reinterpretation of the French watchwords: Liberty, Justice and Love. There could be no justice without love. Love meant power to put oneself in another sinner's position. In political idealism justice stood supreme. I appeal to the members of this House to make justice supreme. British or Indian should always remember that, if we really desire to make the Reforms a success, justice should stand supreme. This I say with reference to the Budget proposals about European and Indian education.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): I feel that in addressing the House on this occasion I must offer my congratulations to the members for the interest which they have displayed in the Budget discussion. I am sure that this interest, growing with ripening knowledge and experience, will fructify in results fraught with enduring good to the Motherland. Sir, I feel that we have met, on what may be described not poetically but within the limits of absolute and unqualified truth, as a historic occasion. This House is considering the first Budget of the Reformed Council, armed with plenary powers over important branches of the public expenditure. Sir, I am not guilty of the slightest exaggeration, when I say that we, the representatives of the people, are exercising at this moment what may be described as sovereign authority subject to the limitations which the constitution has imposed upon us. I appeal to hon'ble members to rise to the solemnity of the occasion, to the height of their responsibility. We have listened to the criticisms which they have made, with interest, with attention—and I might add with respect. Some of the criticisms seem to me to have been unfounded. All the same, I feel, and every Member of Government must feel, that they are the criticisms of the elect of the people, their chosen representatives deputed to this Council, to work on behalf

of the people and to voice the grievances and the complaints of the people. We regard their criticisms in that light. They may penetrate into our flesh and blood, but the soul remains undisturbed in the magnitude of the task that is before us, in the recognition of the fact that the voice is the voice of the representatives of a people, rising to a sense of national consciousness. Sir, the Budget is a disappointing Budget, and the note of dissatisfaction has been sounded with unerring emphasis. I am afraid in that note of dissatisfaction the Government and the Ministers have been included. We have been held responsible for the Budget. My friend, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter, has endeavoured to show that we, Ministers, have just recently come into office, and therefore, the responsibility is not ours: but the public voice makes no discrimination and says that it is the Budget of the Government, that it is an unsatisfactory Budget, and Government is responsible for it—no matter whether the Government consists of two wings, the popular and the official; it is the Government—one solid, unified Government, acting and deliberating together. Government must, therefore, bear the responsibility. Sir, I do not object to that. I am broad-shouldered enough to bear the criticisms that may be levelled against the Government or against the Ministers. Sir, the fact that we have been new to office does not count for much. In this connection I am reminded of a bit of evidence which I gave before the Joint Parliamentary Committee in July 1919. That was one of the pleas that I urged in favour of the Reforms. I said that the immediate effect of the operation of the Reform Act would be to bring the Ministers into line with the Executive Government, within the central zone of popular criticism, which would be directed against the Government as a whole, against the Ministers as well as the Members of the Executive Council, and the volume of such criticism would be reduced by its division among Members of the Executive Council and Ministers. That prediction has now been amply justified by the events of the last few days. I do not regret it in the slightest degree. And there was another little prediction, which, as a Brahmin and which I desire to repeat in this Council, I ventured to make on that occasion. It was this, that this first instalment of self-rule was but the prelude to the fuller establishment of complete responsible Government in the provinces. I am perfectly certain that we are on the first rung of the ladder, and that, if in this Council we conduct our deliberations with wisdom, with prudence, with good-sense, without extravagance, and without stirring up racial prejudice, we shall be approaching the goal of self-government within a measurable distance of time. That was the message of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. His parting message was, whether India was to have self-government or not was a matter which rested with the people. They may have it indefinitely postponed, or they may have it soon by the practice of moderation and prudence, qualities which I venture to

say are the gift of the people of India and have been their heritage from the ages past.

Sir, I now pass on to some of the detailed criticisms affecting my departments. In the first place, I have to observe that it was Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri who set the ball a-rolling, and he began by observing that the Ministers were to blame for assenting to the diversion of the earmarked funds to purposes other than those for which they were allocated. This is a matter which concerns the department of my friend the Hon'ble the Finance Member, and I am quite sure that in his reply he will be able to convince you that there has been no diversion of any kind whatsoever. A portion of the fund—he will mention the figure—is still there, and is to be controlled by you—you can divert it and use it in any way you like.

Now I pass on to the observations of my hon'ble friend, Mr D. C. Ghose, whom I always listen to with the utmost pleasure. He is one of those men, who, guided by experience and good sense, has a great future before him, and his eloquent speeches are listened to in this House with great interest and attention. He said that the Ministers have exhibited a deplorable lack of appreciation of their responsibility in the matter of nation-building subjects, and he went on to add that they have shown an equal lack of ambition I was a bit startled when I heard that statement made by my friend; for up till now nobody has charged me with lack of ambition—it is quite the other way about I may assure my hon'ble friend that neither advancing years nor the allurements of an easy, peaceful and contented life have deterred me from pursuing my ambitious ideals. However that may be, my friend is generous enough to recognise that we have just newly come to office and, that being so, what he wants us to do is to start the burning of bricks, before we raise our splendid structure. I desire to meet him on his own ground. My friend perhaps does not know that to start brick-burning takes at least six months, and we have been in office only for a couple of months. I am not a manufacturer of bricks, but it so happens that for the last 30 years I have been closely associated with a municipality which controls extensive brickfields. They start operations in the month of October, they collect the clay, then temper it with water, expose it to the sun, mould the bricks, dig holes, put them in and burn them. The operations begin in October and end in March. My friend will be generous enough to allow us at least six months' time to start the brick-burning to which he alludes. Now, I ask, would any programme or any policy be worth the paper upon which it was inscribed, if it was deliberated upon and designed in a couple of months? It would be worse even than the historic scrap of paper, which the German Chancellor brushed aside with derision and contempt. We

must have time for a thing of this kind. I may tell my friends that I am already in communication with my constituted adviser, Dr. Bentley, the Sanitary Commissioner. I have asked him to work out a programme for three years, and the operations will be taken in hand and will be prosecuted from year to year, until we have completed it. I have asked him to consult the Sanitary Engineer on the subject. I hope, after our plans are ready, to place them before you and ask you to do something more than merely to discuss them. It will be my duty to invite you to vote money, because that is the *crux* of the matter, and what I venture to assert is that, if Bengal is really to be released from the grip of malarial fever, it must be as the result of extensive operations over the whole province. A thousand here and a few thousands there and a lakh elsewhere will not do. You must have a comprehensive scheme of operations designed and carried out by your scientific experts; and, if you vote the necessary funds, I am sure that it will make Bengal what she once was—a land of peace, plenty and prosperity; and that is the ideal that I have before me. If you will give me your support and not make statements founded upon misapprehension and prejudice, something I hope will be done in that direction.

Then, Sir, my friend made a serious mistake when he said that only Rs. 15,000 had been provided in the Budget for charitable dispensaries in the mufassal. I find the same mistake repeated by my friend over there, Babu Surendra Nath Mullick, and by my friend, Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy. There seems to be a comedy of errors enacted in this Council Chamber in connection with this matter. As a matter of fact, instead of Rs. 15,000, we have provided Rs. 2,88,000 in the Budget—there is a very considerable difference between Rs 15,000 and Rs. 2,88,000. Then my friend, Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy, has told us that the Budget provision for Public Health was only Rs. 3,29,000 besides Rs. 7,000 for anti-malarial operations. The figures in the Budget estimate for 1921-22 provide Rs. 19,46,000 for Public Health and not Rs. 3,29,000, but that is not all. This sum represents an increase of nearly Rs. 4,00,000 upon the Budget estimate of the current year, and Rs. 9,50,000 over the revised estimate of the present year. Therefore I claim that a considerable advance has been made in this matter, and whatever criticisms have been made must be regarded as baseless and unfounded. Something more has yet to be said. Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy observed that only Rs. 7,000 has been provided in connection with malaria. He perhaps took the figure of the pay of the Deputy Commissioner for malarial research. What are the facts? We have provided Rs. 75,000 for quinine distribution, Rs. 20,000 for the reclamation of the Bhairab and Rs. 1,00,000 to be given to the Irrigation Department in connection with anti-malarial work. Even that is not all, Sir. Here I hold in my hand a statement which shows the works that we have undertaken. Large provision, too, has been made in the

Loans Budget for loans to enable various schemes in progress to be carried out:—

		Rs.
Arul Bhil	...	50,000
Amta	...	1,50,000
Jabuna	...	2,00,000
Nowie Sunti	...	2,00,000

in all Rs. 6,00,000.

My friend, Babu Surendra Nath Ray, for whom I have great respect as a man of facts and figures, and who delights in these things, has, in the exuberance of his zeal to criticise the Budget, indulged in an unusual performance. Babu Surendra Nath Ray complains that there is a large number of municipal water-supply and drainage schemes, for which no provision has been made, and he has referred to the scheme of water-supply in the riparian municipalities and to the extension of the Serampore, the Comilla and the Patuakhali water-works May I tell him that the scheme for the supply of water to the riparian municipalities has been revived by me. When I entered office on the 3rd of January last, I enquired about this particular scheme, for the simple reason that I am personally interested in it. Patriotism is an expansion of the domestic affections: it all centres in the home, and from the home it radiates forth in all directions Being an inhabitant of Barrackpore I am deeply interested in the scheme, and when I inquired what had become of it, I was told that it was dead To this I said that I must revive it, it cannot and must not be dead The scheme has been revived and correspondence is now going on, and possibly a meeting of the representatives of the riparian municipalities, south of the Palta water-works will soon be held. The real difficulty was this, that the Mill municipalities declined to have any part or share in it; they withdrew from the scheme, which, as I understand, they had promised to support. What I have suggested is to include all municipalities from Palta downwards to Cossipore-Chitpur. These are the lines on which we are now proceeding. Therefore my friend may rest assured that, so far as my department is concerned, everything will be done for the purpose of reviving the scheme into life. My friend's catalogue of mistakes does not end here. He has told us that only Rs. 60,000 was provided for municipal schemes in the Budget. My friend must have forgotten altogether the statement which the Municipal Department laid on the table in reply to a question asked by my friend, Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri, and that was only a few days ago, on the 21st February last.

Provision has been made for the following schemes—not Rs. 60,000, but several times Rs. 60,000, as you will find:—

		Rs.
Dacca Town sewerage	...	3,00,000
Comilla water-works	...	50,000
Naihati water-supply	...	10,000
Patuakhali water-supply	..	5,000
Basirhat drainage	...	5,000
Chittagong drainage	...	75,000

In addition to this we have provided for loans to the amount of Rs. 4,69,000. Therefore, Sir, the statement of my friend that Rs. 60,000 has been provided for municipal schemes is wholly beside the mark.

My friend, Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy, has told us that, while Rs. 1,90,000 was provided for water-supply in the towns, not a single pice has been given to the rural areas. My friend must have been oblivious of the history of the grants to the district boards which were made by the Imperial Government a few years ago. I was at that time a Member of the Imperial Legislative Council. The proceeds of the Public Works Cess, at that time amounting to Rs. 28,00,000 a year, were made over to the District Boards for the purpose of supplying drinking water. They have got that grant of Rs. 28,00,000 from the Imperial Government for the purpose of water-supply, and that grant of Rs. 28,00,000 has now risen to about Rs. 34,00,000. If they want more money, why don't they apply to us? Not a single case of such application has been received by Government, and if any is made to us, I can assure my friends that it will receive sympathetic consideration.

There are some other matters to which I desire to call attention. My friend, Mr. Amulya Dhone Addy, has observed that we should postpone the grant of Rs. 75,000 which we have made to the European Nursing Institution. I am sorry that my friend should have raised this question. I have carefully gone into the matter. It is a most useful institution, and it is very badly in need of funds. The Secretary saw me on the subject some time ago and asked me if I could raise the grant. This grant has been continued by Government for a period of ten years, and to postpone the grant would be to close down the institution. It is quite true that this is an institution for the training of European nurses. But the bulk to whom they minister are Indians. It is quite natural that we should like to employ Indian in preference to European nurses, but they have not yet got the requisite training, and we must in a matter of life and death employ the most efficient agency. About four-fifths of those who are benefited by the ministrations of European nurses are Indians. Thus we are benefited by them. The money is ours: let us spend it upon a beneficent purpose like this. It will redound to our

credit. I think my friend will not put in any motion for the withdrawal of this grant; for, although it would be unpleasant for me to have to oppose it, I am sorry I shall have to do it. And akin to this question, is the complaint regarding Rs. 10,000 being given for furniture for the quarters of the European nurses. Now that we have got the quarters, without furniture they cannot be occupied. Are you going to keep them empty? I won't do it; you won't do it; nobody would do it. Therefore, as practical men, let us face the situation as we find it; here, again, the old point rises that the nurses, for whom you are going to provide this furniture, are persons who are employed for your benefit and for ministration to our suffering countrymen.

My friend, Rai Pyari Lal Doss Bahadur has invited us to establish a medical college at Dacca. I have the deepest sympathy with this object. But I have an appeal to make to him; he appeals to me, might I return the compliment by an appeal to him? We are soon going to have the Dacca University; the Dacca University is an institution equipped with a Medical Faculty. I have not the slightest doubt that, if there is need for such a college, the University will try to start it. And I think it would very much facilitate matters, and it would go far to bring about the realisation of my friend's idea, if he were to offer a handsome donation to the University of Dacca for the purpose of establishing a medical college there. I am perfectly certain that it would be a spur and an incentive to the University, which would go a long way towards the fulfilment of his wishes, and if funds are locally raised and an application is made to Government, Government will sympathetically consider the matter.

Let me now turn for a moment to a similar application made by my friend, Babu Annada Charan Dutta, in respect of a medical school at Chittagong. In this connection, I desire to say that is a part of the policy of Government to add to the number of medical schools in the mufassal as far as practicable. We heard the other day that there was only one qualified medical man to serve 42,000 of our population. This is a grievance—a serious grievance—and I am tempted to use very strong language, which would not perhaps befit my position as Minister. In any case, this state of things should be remedied, and Government will do its best, if you co-operate in the removal of this great want. I appeal to my friend, Babu Annada Charan Dutta, to raise funds locally. There was a talk about this matter in July last between the local leaders and the Surgeon-General, and funds were promised. What has become of the promise? If you can show that there is a local feeling—and the money-test is the true test of all sincerity—if you can give us money, Government will be convinced that you are really earnest in the matter, and Government will contribute towards the fulfilment of the object which the people and the Government have so much at heart. Maulvi Yakuinuddin Ahmed has also made a proposal of the same kind. He suggests that more students should be admitted to the Calcutta Medical

College. This College is at present far too crowded; I think there are about 1,100 to 1,200 students; there is no room there; there is no hospital accommodation suitable to the proposed enlargement of the College. He makes this suggestion in order to minimise the provincial deficit, and indeed he has a sort of idea that the provincial deficit might be wiped out by the influx of a huge crowd of students joining the college. But immediately afterwards, with a strange forgetfulness, my friend wants them to be admitted free; the students who will pay fees for wiping out the provincial deficit are to be admitted free into the Medical College! I am afraid I must confess my inability to follow my friend through the labyrinthine mazes of a reasoning which lead to a conclusion of this kind!

Well, Sir, I have now another matter to refer to. There is a proposal brought by the Maharaja of Nadia; he asks the Government to bear the whole cost of the drainage of Krishnagar. I feel great concern for the people of Krishnagar, and for more reasons than one. At one time Krishnagar was a sanitarium, and Warren Hastings built a house there and would visit it for a change. It was a sanitarium in the days of my youth. It is now stricken down with malaria; it is now a deserted place, full of wild jungle, covered with dilapidated houses, with the people running about hither and thither to escape from the scourge of malaria! Any attempt to restore to Krishnagar something of its former salubrity must evoke the sympathy of every right-minded man and of the Government. But, Sir, Government is circumscribed by the limitations of finance. We made a large grant to Krishnagar for the purpose of its water-supply and have advanced a loan also; we could not provide the whole cost. Here again, I must appeal to local patriotism, and tell the local people that if they would raise funds, we are prepared to consider their application sympathetically. There is Babu Nuffer Das Pal Chaudhuri who offered at one time Rs. 5,00,000 for some public object. Why should he not come forward again? There are other rich men who might help with similar grants. I am certain that, if they come to Government, Government will consider their application.

Sir, one word more and I am done. I am sorry to have to refer to a matter which my esteemed friend, Mr. Surendra Nath Mullick, alluded to the other day. I am sorry that in this Council Chamber issues should be raised which, I think, should be buried in oblivion. We are here, representatives of the Indian community, representatives of the European community, we are here, Hindus, Muhammadans and Christians, for one common object. We are here to combine, to co-operate, to act together in order to make this great experiment the success that it deserves to be. The future of India depends on the successful working of this experiment and, if you wish to co-operate, if you wish to make the experiment a success, let there be no friction, no irritation, no cause of controversy. Let us make this Council Chamber the temple of concord, of unity, and of brotherly love. We have to forget and forgive many

things. Let us forget and forgive. Let us blot out the past in the hope of the great future that is before us. I appeal to my friends, and I think I am entitled to advise them, having regard to my age and my long career of public service, I think I am entitled to advise my friends to adopt the policy which I have ventured to suggest. Sir, my friend was very despondent having regard to the character of the Budget. What are Reforms worth with a Budget of this kind?—said he. Well, Sir, is it not too early to despair? We have just got the beginnings of responsible government, and now at the first shock of disappointment we are so disconcerted that we throw up our hands and say that we do not want them. Is this a frame of mind that would qualify you for self-government? We have heard a great deal about nation-building. Read the constitutional history of other countries. Note the disappointments, the trials and tribulations through which they had to pass, before they secured the great boon of freedom, for which they yearned. That should be a lesson to us. Let us not forget the traditions of courage, patience and fortitude which are the heritage of our race. The Budget is indeed disappointing. But let me tell my friends that it is not the last of your disappointments. You will have many more, many trials and tribulations of this kind, before you will have crossed the desert and entered the land of promise. Bear in mind that with the growth and development of the qualities of courage, patience and self-restraint the dark clouds that now frown on the horizon will pass away, and a bright and splendid day will dawn upon this great and ancient land.

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): When I joined this Government I did so with my eyes open and I am, therefore, bound to accept my share of the legacy left by the old Government. I have listened very carefully to the debate on this Budget, and I cannot help feeling that the trend of the whole discussion has been that one section of the Government has not got enough money and that the reserved section of the Government has in this respect treated the transferred section very badly. But I venture to submit to this House that, if they carefully examine the Budget, item by item, they will find that even in our section of the Government there are only items which are absolutely necessary. There was considerable criticism levelled at the way the Budget has been divided into "non-voted" and "voted." So far as my department is concerned the members will find that in the Administration of justice, the non-voted amount is Rs. 26,17,000, while the voted is Rs. 1,14,40,000, and for the Jails the non-voted is Rs. 1,83,000 and the voted as much as Rs. 40,05,000. That I submit, Sir, is a very strong proof of the extent to which confidence has been reposed by the new scheme of Reforms in this Council, and therefore, the Government will naturally expect that in return the members will repose similar confidence in the Government. The powers that are entrusted to the Council

are very considerable, and, if the members were so inclined, they could paralyse the Government much more effectively than any non-co-operationists. But I am perfectly sure, although we have listened to good many very trenchant criticisms, that the House will, when it comes to the voting of grants, act prudently, discreetly and reasonably. So far as my department is concerned and also the other departments belonging to this section of the Government, I am afraid some of the speakers have treated these departments in a somewhat step-motherly fashion. Some departments are very happily described as nation-building departments. I do not quarrel with this. But if education, for instance, is a nation-building department, I venture to describe my departments, namely, the Administration of justice, as "nation-preserving departments." I always thought that, so far as the courts of law were concerned, they enjoyed a great deal of the respect of the people of this province I might almost say their affections. Am I to believe that there has been a change of attitude in this respect? I can hardly believe that. The Council must remember that this is a department which is indispensable to good Government. What is the scope, for instance, of the Judicial Department? It properly includes not only the courts of law, but also the Police Department, because without the police the courts cannot enforce law and order in the country. As a corollary of these, unfortunately, we must have jails. These are really primary departments and I am sure, when it comes to the voting of grants, this Council will treat them with the greatest consideration, for any tampering with any of these departments will be disastrous to the administration of the country.

So far as the administration of justice is concerned, I shall ask you to remember that, when you are levelling your criticism on the working of this department, you are dealing mainly with the High Court. It is the High Court that is really in direct charge of the administration and supervision of justice in this province. The learned Judges, who are administering justice and supervising the administration of justice throughout the province, are in the best position, therefore, to judge of the wants and needs of the department. No member of the House can for one moment think that the High Court does not know what is wanted in the establishments of the courts. I am sure the Council will not doubt for a moment that the High Court keeps a vigilant eye on the lower courts, and sees that they do their work properly, and that they work as they are expected to do for the full time. I know from my experience of this province and also other provinces, that for a considerable time litigation has been constantly increasing in the country and for the last two or three years there has been a considerable increase in litigation in this province. I was not at all surprised, therefore, when I met with a demand from the High Court for a considerable strengthening of the subordinate judiciary. They wanted as many as

forty Munsifs and five subordinate Judges and a number of Additional District and Sessions Judges, and the figures that they supplied showed amply that that demand was justified. I heard one speaker take objection to the addition of Munsifs. I must admit frankly to this Council that I was more than surprised at this criticism. The Munsifs, as every one is aware, are a very hard-worked body, and any relief that could be given to them, should I think, appeal to the sympathies of this Council. What we have done in this Budget is to provide for 20 additional Munsifs and three Subordinate Judges and some Additional District and Sessions Judges. This provision the High Court will probably not consider as wholly adequate, but everyone tried to cut down his demand in these times of financial stringency and my department also had to curtail its full demands.

Then, as we all know, for a long time there has been a cry from all quarters for the increase of pay of the Subordinate Judicial Service It is not only the officers themselves that have been asking for more pay, but in their demand they have had the sympathy of the entire province. The greater portion of the increase in the Budget for the Administration of Justice is due to the increase of pay that we have been obliged to give to the Provincial Judicial Service.

Then, in the course of the debate, complaint was made of a Paper Book Department that has been recently established by the High Court That after all is not a very big item; it is a small item in this year's Budget, about Rs. 50,000 and in the ensuing year we have budgeted for Rs. 1,30,000. The whole scheme is still under consideration, and it is possible that some items of the anticipated expenditure might be curtailed, but we ought to take it that the High Court found itself compelled by circumstances to establish this department. As many of the members may be aware, the High Court has always required that paper books should be printed not only for second appeals, but for the first appeals or regular appeals. The paper books for second appeals were printed under the supervision of the High Court itself, but so far as the first appeals are concerned they were printed by junior vakils. The Privy Council in several judgments complained of the way in which some of the paper books in the appeals from the judgments of the High Court had been prepared. They also complained a great deal about the delay that there has been in the appeals being heard, so much so, that they went to the extent of laying down with reference to appeals to the Privy Council (all appeals, which go to the Privy Council, have to be of the value of more than Rs. 10,000), that the paper books must be prepared and printed under the supervision of the High Court. That order the High Court was bound to carry out. So far as the appeals below Rs. 10,000 are concerned, the Privy Council, as a rule, are not concerned with them, but, as a lawyer member of this Council said, even in cases below Rs. 10,000 appeals may be preferred to the Privy Council either by consolidation of a number of appeals, or

by special leave. The High Court found it impracticable to have two sets of rules, one for the preparation of paper books for appeals above Rs. 10,000 and another set for appeals below Rs. 10,000. In their opinion such separate arrangements would be rather difficult to work. The learned Judges found it very difficult to deal properly with the appeals, heard by them, having regard to the way in which the paper books had been prepared. As everybody knows, the cost of printing has gone up very considerably lately, the cost of materials has gone up and the cost of labour has also gone up, and it is therefore becoming more and more difficult for junior pleaders with limited means to do their work efficiently in preparing the paper books. What has been the result? A great number of these paper books caused great difficulty to the learned Judges in following the case, and therefore, for the efficiency of business, they found themselves compelled to change the system and to take away the preparation of the paper books from the hands of the junior pleaders. I fully realise that this rule has caused hardship to several pleaders, who depended, to some extent at least, on the small income they derived from the preparation of these books. No doubt every one will have sympathy with the struggling junior pleaders, and I need hardly assure the House that, having myself gone through a similar experience in the profession, I sympathise with them very considerably. But the House will have to look at a question of this sort from a much larger point of view, not from the point of view of individuals but from the point of view of the efficiency of the administration. Anybody who is concerned with the methods of legal business, must know that, if the record is not properly prepared, that there would be a considerable risk of miscarriage of justice The Judges have, therefore, to be very careful in seeing that the record is properly prepared, and, surely it is the duty of the High Court Judges, if they find that the records that they have to deal with, were not properly prepared, if they find difficulty in following that record, surely it is their duty to change the procedure in order to ensure that there should be as little risk of miscarriage of justice as possible.

Sir, something was also said about the cost of the administration of justice. I have had considerable experience of the administration of justice in this country for the last 30 years, both in the profession as well as on the Bench, and I quite agree that the administration of justice under the present system is very costly, but it must be remembered that the cost to the litigant is not so much on account of the court fees levied by the Government. I myself belong to the legal profession, and I should be the last person to say one word against it, but it cannot be denied that the cost to the litigants in the shape of fees which they have to pay to pleaders and barristers is much higher than the amount of court fees payable by them.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): It is only six weeks ago, or a little more than that, that I had to deal with some of the departments which have now received the nomenclature of "nation-building" and "nation-preserving" departments. Considering the rather warm welcome that these departments have received in the way of criticism, I am perhaps not quite so sorry that I am not at the present moment in charge of them. The departments which I have to defend, if I may also give a name to them, may be called the "nation-feeding" departments, for without revenue, I do not suppose the Finance Member himself could very well introduce a budget, and therefore it is somewhat surprising that a certain amount of criticism should have been levelled at some of the provisions made in the Budget for bringing in more revenue for the members of this Council to play with for the different projects of the several departments in which they are mainly interested. I shall now deal with some of the points which have been raised by certain members of this Council.

First of all Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur gave us a word of advice about the development of the forest revenues. I may point out to him that the Budget, so far as it relates to the provisions under the head Forests, is always made with an eye towards getting more money into the exchequer, and, if the hon'ble member, who made the suggestion that the department concerned should have an eye towards the development of forests, were to examine some of the items which we have included in the Budget, he would find that they are all practically items which will bring in revenue in some shape or other. To give an example there is a provision for Rs. 38,000 for the completion of working plans in Chittagong. The work was started in 1918 and was nearly completed in 1920-21, but owing to certain difficulties—one of them being the resignation of the officer in charge and the general shortage of officers in the Forest Department—it could not be completed, and it is necessary that the work should be completed next year. It is a remunerative work—the extraction of timber in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and as such, I am sure will be welcomed by this Council. If we took at the provision of half a lakh for the *khedda* operations in the Chittagong Tracts, it will be at once apparent to the members of this Council that this is a remunerative work. I shall not, therefore, trouble the Council any further with regard to the provisions made in the Budget so far as the head Forests is concerned, for I am sure everyone realises that provisions are made with the main object of bringing in more revenue to the Government.

I shall now have to speak at some length on a subject which has received a certain amount of criticism from some of the members of this Council, and particularly from Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray, regarding the provisions that have been made in the Land Revenue Budget in connection with survey and settlement operations in Bengal. The

Kumar Sahib has not only suggested a considerable reduction, but has gone the length of criticising the very utility of the record-of-rights which are prepared so laboriously by the Settlement staff, and to quote his own words, he considers the expenditure on this work as so much waste of money. The sheet anchor of his criticism is that there is an absence of an agency to maintain the records, on the preparation of which so much labour and money are expended. Well, I do not propose to go into this question at very great length. On the other hand, it is a matter of considerable importance, and with an eye on the clock, I shall try to convince the members of this Council of the necessity of the provisions which we have made in the Budget this year.

A maintenance scheme, particularly in a province, where owing to the permanent settlement a complicated system of land tenure exists, is bound to be expensive, and anything which requires the levy of any cost, however justifiable it may be on principle, is bound to evoke a certain amount of criticism. Government had to face this experience in Bakarganj, where the landlords strongly opposed the concrete scheme formulated by Sir Nicholas Beatson Bell. I may say that the District Administration Committee had examined the pros and cons of the subject by comparing conditions in Bengal with those obtaining in the United Provinces and the Central Provinces, where the land records system also exists. It was recognised that in Bengal the system would be considered to be exotic both by landlords and tenants; in Bengal a civil court would not attach to the record-of-rights the same degree of validity which the revenue officers would give to the same documents in the United Provinces and the Central Provinces in spite of some of their imperfections. The verdict of the committee was that the continuous maintenance of a record-of-rights in Bengal of the nature which the Kumar has advocated, would not only involve an expense out of all proportion to what suffices for the Land Records Department in the other provinces, but the total cost, in itself, would be quite disproportionate to the small land revenue paid in Bengal. Therefore, the Kumar will see for himself, if Government did seriously consider having machinery of a permanent nature for maintaining the record-of-rights, and keeping that record up to date, whether those for whom he has advocated it, would themselves welcome it.

Of course, the Kumar has made a certain suggestion; at least, he has expressed a hope that the circle system, which is now being introduced and developed as an integral part of the village organization, may in time afford the basis of an effective staff for the maintenance of records. I quite admit the value and importance of the maintenance of records, and do not belittle it, because the map records are of enormous advantage to the administration, and greatly facilitate the working of the civil courts. The tenants themselves receive inestimable advantages in their lands and rents being authoritatively certified, and the stability of the rent which has been assured to them. The landlords

also receive substantial advantages from such official records of fields and rents, which are not only of service to them where they are strong, but are also an insurance for the future, when the cultivators may become more conscious of their strength. The records enable the landlords to obtain increased rent for excess areas held by tenants and to identify lands held rent-free. I may say that the idea of the record-of-rights being maintained is not at all new; it is a well-known fact that it was recommended so long ago as 1789 in the famous minute of Sir John Shore, which has since become a historic document. The provisions of that minute were not accepted, and the revenue was fixed for ever, without any precise record having been made of the reciprocal relations of the zamindars and tenants. I do not propose to go into the history of what happened at a later stage regarding this question.

I shall now turn to some of the points of the Kumar with regard to what he said, that the estimates went up by leaps and bounds at the time of Sir Nicholas Beatson Bell, and were very much reduced in two years during the time of Sir John Cumming, and he has also expressed a disappointment that since I came in, being a big zamindar myself, by a magical wand, I could not at once reduce the settlement operations to nothing. I shall explain to him why that was not possible. In the first place, let us look at the programme. Let us first of all consider what has been the programme in pursuance of this policy which necessitated survey and settlement operations being taken up in some of the Bihar districts, and in Bakarganj in Lower Bengal, because it started from 1903. A regular programme was drawn up in 1903 for the whole of Bengal, Bihar and Chota Nagpur, and according to this, the work in the province, as then constituted, was to have been completed in 1927-28. After the readjustment of territories in 1912 a fresh programme had to be drawn up in 1915, according to which survey and settlement operations were to be completed in the whole of Bengal in 1931-32. This contemplated the employment of four traverse parties, followed by four cadastral survey and settlement parties, but owing to financial stringency during the war, it was not possible to keep pace with the programme. The four-party basis had to be reduced to a three-party basis, with the result that the operations were delayed in several districts by three years. The programme covers an area of nearly 66,000 square miles, in 33,000 and odd square miles of which the work has now been completed. The record-of-rights is in preparation in 5,440 square miles, and 26,000 and odd square miles still remain to be taken up. The work has been completed in Chittagong, Tippera and Noakhali, Dacca Bakarganj, Faridpur and Mymensingh, Jalpaiguri, Rajshahi and Midnapore. It is going on in Jessore, Nadia, Bankura, Pabna and Bogra. It is proposed to take up the work of preparation of record-of-rights in Khulna, Murshidabad and Birbhum, where traverse survey work has already commenced on a four-party basis. The Kumar has suggested a reduction of the allotment for survey and settlement to some-

thing like Rs. 16,00,000. I wish it were possible to do so without causing a serious dislocation of arrangements previously made. At the outset what would be our difficulty? It would mean the disbandment of a large staff of officers whom it has taken a number of years to train for the work they are now doing. Such an action would be subversive of all business methods; for once they are discharged, it would be difficult to collect them again. It would be very bad economy from a business point of view. Although the party may be discharged, the retention of other things cannot be dispensed with. Houses, steamers and tents will have to be retained, and the cost incidental to them will necessarily rise during the period of reduced or no work. A suspension of operations would also lead to the record already in preparation getting out of date. Disputes taken up, but left undecided, would lead to serious rioting. The work of traverse survey, if once discontinued in areas, where it has already started, would have to be re-done next time, and this cannot but considerably raise the ultimate cost.

The Kumar seems to be under an impression that the Settlement Budget can be manipulated by the Member in charge according to his own sweet will and pleasure, for he has said that in Sir Nicholas Beatson Bell's time the Budget figures rose to Rs. 27,00,000 and in Sir John Cumming's time it again fell to Rs. 10,00,000 or Rs. 15,00,000. Accordingly he expected me to reduce it to Rs. 16,00,000. Apart from the fact that his statements about the past estimates are not accurate, his impression that these are arbitrarily evolved, is also wrong. In 1912-13 the estimates amounted to Rs. 20,00,000, and in 1913-14 to over Rs. 23,00,000. In 1917-18 (during the time of Sir John Cumming) the estimates were Rs. 21,00,000, and for 1918-19, Rs. 22,00,000.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: What are the actual expenses please?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I have not got the figures here. These estimates have always been based on actual requirements. It has also already been made clear that no curtailment of the programme, for which provision has been made in the Budget, is possible, without causing serious inconvenience; as a matter of fact, when we framed the Budget we had to sacrifice Rs. 2,00,000 for general retrenchment, and the provision that we have made is, to our mind, the minimum we could go on with.

Then, again, as I have already observed, delay is also bad from the point of view of landlords and tenants, for it will cause the work to be spread over a number of years, which will ultimately raise the cost to be borne by the interested parties. Moreover, even in case of the work being carried on on a two-party basis, the control charges in the shape of the pay of superior officers, like the Director of Surveys and the Director of Land Records, and of their office establishments, will only become very heavy. There is another point of view of no mean importance, from which it is very necessary that the settlement of the

rovince should not be further delayed, and that is this—the Kumar nd other members in this Council who are interested, would do well to emember the non-zamindar element in this House, who are interested n the question of the early amendment of some of the sections of the Bengal Tenancy Act, particularly those relating to occupancy rights. Only a few days ago, a member of this Council wanted to bring in a Bill with regard to this, and when I gave him a personal assurance that he matter was under the consideration of Government and would not be aken up until we had received the Settlement Report from at least one District in each Division, he decided to wait. In this connection it nust also be remembered that the Government will have eventually, when the operations are completed, to consider carefully as to whether or not the time has now arrived for another rent law commission. For all these reasons I do not think it would be advisable at all in any way o curtail survey operations; only, as I have said, we have had to provide, owing to the paucity of funds, less than we really wanted in next year's Budget, and Government cannot possibly take up the general question of the amendment of the Tenancy Act until the reports from at east one district in every Division have been received, so that the different aspects of the question can be examined from a broader point of view.

All these circumstances would, I hope convince the Council of the unwisdom of exercising any economy so far as the Settlement Budget is concerned.

I do not think, Sir, that it would do any good my going further into this point. While I sympathise with the Kumar about the increased cost, which the landlords have to pay, I may say I am a big zamindar myself, and have had to bear a very heavy cost this year, and therefore that, in a matter of this kind, we have to sink our personal inconveniences, and I hope the members of this Council will realise that it is a question of general importance, and that Government rely on the good results of these survey and settlement operations. In these circumstances it would be unwise to hamper the work by curtailing the expenditure on it, when there are important matters relating to the amendment of the Bengal Tenancy Act already long overdue

It is now time for the *magreb* prayer. I shall continue my remarks after the adjournment.

The Council here adjourned for 15 minutes.

The Council reassembled after adjournment.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The other matters relating to my department, which have come in for criticism, are few, and the main subject which has been largely criticised is the Grand Trunk Canal project. Before I go into the Grand Trunk Canal project, I shall answer very briefly to the other gentlemen who discussed matters relating to my department. The two

gentlemen from Dacca suggested the improvement of the Dolai Khal. To them my reply ii that an answer was given to a question put by Rai Pyari Lal Doss Bahadur on the 7th February last and I have got nothing further to add to it. The scheme is certainly under the consideration of the Government but owing to the lack of funds as also of officers in the Irrigation Department, we cannot guarantee that the scheme will mature at an early date, and in consequence we cannot advocate any funds being allocated for it.

Babu Nalini Nath Roy made some remarks with regard to the Madaripur Bil route workfi and I think that his main objection was not so much as to whether the Madaripur Bil route work was a good one or not, but he objected to the Bil route work as well as to the Grand Trunk Canal, because he thought that projects with regard to anti-malarial operations should be given preference to these.

Then, regarding the Madaripur Bil work, Babu Bhishmadev Das has criticised that the Bil project is unable to afford protection to the crops on the right bank and also wants the silt-clearing of a channel from Faridpur to Sripur and wishes that the whole length from Sripur to Tentulia be silt-cleared for navigation. This scheme, I should like to point out, should be investigated by his own district board and it is a matter which the Irrigation Department cannot take up until the local self-government are convinced of its necessity as an anti-malarial project or otherwise.

Then, Maharaja Kshaunish Chandra Roy Bahadur of Nadia, wanted to know what we had done with regard to the Anjana scheme. This scheme has been submitted by the local officers and is now under the consideration of Government. The fact, however, is that owing to dearth of officers no headway is possible, at the present moment. The Sanitary Drainage Division Engineer has got enough to do with the works in progress in his hands; but if the situation improves, it may be possible to make a beginning after the rains of 1921, when the preliminaries could be started and, by the end of 1921-22, money could perhaps be found from unforeseen savings from other items. But, at present, on behalf, of Government, I am unable to provide any money for it or to give a definite promise that it will be taken up during the year to come.

Then, Raja Maniloll Singh Roy of Chakdighi, has raised the question of the Rankinidaha. Here, again, the scheme is being investigated. Surveys were made last year of the Gheanadi, a proposed junction cut between the Kananadi and the Gheanadi, and surveys of the areas north and south of the Rankinidaha appear to be necessary; and these have also been taken in hand. The scheme will be prepared after the present surveys are completed; and, if it is then found feasible to work out a proper scheme, there will be ample time to consider whether any provision should be made in the Budget for 1922-23. For the present, the

scheme is not ripe, and as such the Raja could not expect us to provide for the project.

Then, a gentleman from Noakhali, Munshi Makramali—I am sorry that he is not here—suggested the closing of the Muntergum Khal, which joins on with the Noakhali river, and the silt cleared of a certain length of this channel. Government have no information in the Irrigation Department on this question; and in any case this question appears to be one of local importance, which Government cannot take up at present but will no doubt have the question looked into.

Two other gentlemen criticised matters relating to my department. One was, I think, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, who criticised the provision made for the resumption of lands at Kalimpong. Regarding that, I may point out that the matter has been thoroughly gone into, and it is proposed that the development of Kalimpong might be gone ahead with. I have already had a discussion on the subject with Mr Lees, the Member of the Board of Revenue, who will have to go into the whole question again this year; but that does not in any way lessen the responsibility of Government or in any way make it possible for Government to cut out this provision for the resumption of lands, because already we have given notice to a large number of tenants there, who are just cutting their crops and who will have to vacate their lands which have been settled with other parties before the next cold weather comes in.

Then, we had a criticism by Babu Jogesh Chandra Sarkar, with regard to the Government allowing some arable lands in the western Duars being converted into tea. He also complained of the restrictions with regard to the present method of settlement which causes a certain amount of heartburning. This, again, is a matter which the Board of Revenue will have look into; and all that I can promise Babu Jogesh Chandra Sarkar is that Government will look into the matter in due course.

Having finished these replies to the criticisms made, I shall now come to the other big project, viz., the Grand Trunk Canal, which relates to the Irrigation Department, which is under me.

Regarding this project, the outlay on waterways, which consists of the expenditure on the Grand Trunk Canal work and purchase of dredgers, has been criticised by a good number of the members. Mr Erfan Ali, Babu Amulya Dhone Addy, Mr. Nasim Ali, and several others advocate omitting the provision of Rs. 70,00,000 during 1921-22 Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur and Babu Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta also want that this work should not be taken up before the question of the work being reproductive is fully investigated, particularly in view of the fact that fresh loans may have to be floated at a higher rate of interest. The Grand Trunk Canal project, as is well known to many of the members of the Council, is intended to afford a navigable connection between the river Hooghly and the

series of tidal rivers which will connect Calcutta with the eastern districts of Bengal. The present canal connection, namely, the Circular and Krishtopur Canals, can be used only by the small country boat traffic; and the Grand Trunk Canal is intended to allow inland steam-vessels to use this shorter route. It is perhaps not known to many members that the system of cross-channels between the Hooghly river and the Multa is dying, and the channel next to the Hooghly, known as the Doagra channel, is in such a condition that it has been kept open by periodical dredging, over the length that is in the worst condition. The longer length is now threatened to be in the same condition, and the alternative system of channels between the Hooghly and the Suptamukhi creek is also deteriorating fast. In view of this, it is necessary that we should have the Grand Trunk Canal connection as early as possible so as to avoid a complete dislocation of the steamer traffic between Calcutta and the Eastern districts eventually. This Grand Canal project was worked out in 1914 by Mr. Lees on a different alignment. Since then, the project has been very carefully scrutinised and alternatives examined by several Chief Engineers and Inspectors-General of Irrigation the outcome of which is the project in its present shape which is estimated to cost Rs. 3,09,00,000, inclusive of indirect charges. It has been asked why this work has been termed as a productive work. The conditions relating to a productive public work are given in paragraph 393 of the Public Works Code, 10th Edition, and runs as follows:—

(*a*) There must be good reason to believe that the revenue derived from it will, within 10 years after the probable date of its completion, repay annual interest on the capital invested, calculated at 5 per cent., but in preparing the project for sanction no deduction is to be made from the total capital outlay on account of anticipated excess of revenue over simple interest.

(*b*) It must be susceptible of having clear capital and revenue accounts of it kept.

(*c*) Its classification as a productive public work must be authorised by competent authority.

In the estimate of the work, as revised by the Inspector-General of Irrigation and subsequently sanctioned by the Secretary of State, it is shown that the net revenue expected from the project, 10 years after the opening of the canal, is Rs. 22,74,000, which represents a return of 7·4 per cent. on capital outlay of Rs. 3,09,00,000. The work has accordingly been admitted as a productive work by the Secretary of State. The above anticipated revenue is based on a toll receipt of Rs. 2 per hundred maunds, which was accepted by the Chamber of Commerce in 1916; and it is not unreasonable to assume that at the present value of money Rs. 2-8 can now be levied.

It has been suggested by some members that the estimate will require revision.

This is more than likely as the land value has gone up since the estimate was prepared, and that the labourers' wages and cost of material have also undergone a change, cannot be denied, but the figures for revised estimates cannot be arrived at without an investigation of the details. The information given above, that the receipts calculated on the basis of Rs. 2 per hundred maunds can be raised to Rs. 2-8 indicates that the present estimate will be exceeded by 30 per cent., yielding the same rate of interest, if the toll charges are raised as above.

The question, however, is one of the utmost importance in view of the fact that the cross-channel connection from the Hooghly is dying, threatening to cut out the link between Calcutta and the channels to the eastern districts, and that an alternative connection should be provided with Calcutta in good time.

The work received the sanction of the Secretary of State on the 19th May last, Rs. 21,00,000 has been allotted for expenditure during the current year; out of which Rs. 13·3 lakhs has been paid for a part of the cost of dredgers during the current year and the balance of Rs. 7·7 lakhs is for land and works. The value of land required for starting the work is a little over Rs. 16,00,000; part of this expenditure, namely, about Rs. 6,50,000, will be paid this year, and the balance of nearly Rs. 10,00,000 is therefore an obligatory charge next year. The manufacture of bricks also will take up about Rs. 5,00,000 this year; for next year the outlay on work will depend on further funds that may be made available later on.

As regards the grant of Rs. 70,00,000 for next year, this includes the cost of dredgers already on order and under construction in England. The total cost of the dredgers is £7,85,000. This figure was originally calculated at Rs. 10 to the £; unfortunately the exchange has since then undergone a very unfavourable turn, and for the next year I do not think we will be justified in working out the figures in Indian currency on a more favourable rate than 1s. 6*d* to the rupee, that is Rs. 106. Part of this payment can possibly be deferred to 1922-23, but it is anticipated that at least Rs. 62,00,000 will be required next year for meeting the cost of the dredgers which are already under construction. This leaves only Rs. 8,00,000 for meeting the cost of land, works and establishment. As I have said above, the balance of the land, for which immediate provision is wanted, will go up to over Rs. 8,00,000 for the next year, so that Rs. 70,00,000, as provided, will be insufficient for the most urgent charges; and as at least one of the dredgers is expected to come out in the next cold weather and, under the terms of the contract, six months' trial of the work in India is guaranteed by the manufacturers, it would be necessary that provision should remain for working this dredger for four months during 1921-22. It will, therefore, be seen that the amount provided cannot be reduced, and we should attempt later on to find further funds by fresh loan either

floated by the local Government or advances made from the Imperial Government.

I hope I have convinced the Council as to the need of this Grand Trunk Canal project, not only because it is going to be a productive work eventually, but also that we have already started the work and we have committed ourselves to a very large amount owing to the purchase of dredgers.

Well, Sir, before I conclude, I should like to make a few general observations with regard to certain criticisms that have been made and among which some will, I am sure, be met by the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, which relate to certain European schools in the excluded areas. I would like to point out that, having been in charge of the Education portfolio for 2½ years, I am convinced that the amounts that have been provided in the Budget for European education, regarding which certain objections and strong criticisms have been made by some members of this Council, are not only absolutely justifiable, but that was the least amount we could provide. As regards Kalimpong, I would like to request some members of this Council to visit the place, to visit the Colonial Homes, for then they would have an opportunity of seeing with their own eyes the great spirit of Christian charity that alone has built up such a work of philanthropy and social reform, and, after visiting the place, I am sure that they would realise what the bands of workers for the Kalimpong Homes have up to now done for themselves and that they deserve every encouragement at the hands of this Government.

Now, as regards some of the other criticisms made, I should like as one of the oldest members of the Bengal Council—for I think I have a right to claim that as I have been for 14 years in the Bengal Council that just now in this new Council there should be more than ever a spirit of catholicity among the Indian members of the Council, and for the simple reason that the Indian members of the Council rightly and justly predominate here. The Indian members of the Council can do what they like with the fate of individual grants, that have been provided for in the Budget, and it is absolutely essential therefore to consider their motions as dispassionately as is possible, especially so when we realise that Indians have got a predominating voice in this Council, and that we can so exercise the powers that have been given to us under this constitution that we can inconvenience others if we take to the spirit of obstruction. It is, therefore, all the more necessary for us to use our discretion and judgment as carefully and with as much catholicity as is possible in us to do. Moreover I would like to point out that it is in the hands of us—Indian Members—to preserve the dignity of the new Council, and whilst as we do here speaking in what is certainly not our mother-tongue we may indulge in the eloquence of a Burke or Macaulay or the words of a Mill or Fawcett which may enable us to speak in

flowery language and in impressive phrases, we should know that we have been given powers which can either make or mar. We have been given certain powers, which we had not possessed before, and in our deliberations therefore we should not overlook some of the qualities which are inborn in us and which are our birthright, and I cannot better explain them than by quoting the famous Vartrihari. His quatrain refers to *sanyasi*, it is true, but it can be equally applied to all, and especially to Hindus, and more particularly to us here, when we are going to build up in our own way the thoughts of the nation in these Councils in which we have a predominating voice. Vartrihari says:

> A *yogi's* father is his patience, mother forbearance, his wife peace, his son truth, his sister mercy and his brother restraint of the mind. The earth is his bed, the quarters are his raiment adn knowledge is his food! With these as his kindred, tell me, friend, need a *yogi* fear anybody?

Only I would substitute the phrase "an Indian" for "a *yogi*."

As Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea has stated, it is essential that in these discussions we should not only purge every feeling of a kind which might be misconstrued into a racial feeling, but we should consider that the power we have in us should be utilised for our mutual benefit. So far as my department is concerned, I have mentioned to you what are the requirements.

Well, Sir, so much for the general considerations connected with those departments. I am sure the Ministers have spoken to the best of their abilities upon the points connected with their departments. But what do I want, as an Indian, and as having been in the Council with the Government for some years now is to strongly appeal to the members that in these matters they should realise the importance of the powers that they have got and use them prudently and wisely.

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): At this late hour of night I propose to confine my remarks as closely as possible to the departments with which I am connected. But as having been largely responsible for the Budget of the province for the preceding three years, and indeed for this one also up to the 3rd January last, it may perhaps be permitted to me to preface my remarks with some comments of a general character which, I promise, will be brief.

The whole procedure connected with this Budget and this Budget discussion has, of course, been one of novelty—as is evidenced by the recurrence in the papers of such new words as "reserved" and "transferred," "voted" and "non-voted" and the subject has been a complicated one, not only to the officials of the Finance Department and to the older members of the Council, but still more so to those who have

quite recently joined it. It is, therefore, not surprising that misunderstandings and misconceptions may have arisen in connection with the Budget. But one of the most curious misconceptions, which is doubtless entirely unintentional, though one which may have regrettable results, is that which underlies the arguments of which we have heard so much during the last three days, namely that, because on an arithmetical calculation it works out that the reserved subjects account for 65 per cent. and the transferred subjects 35 per cent., of the total expenditure, therefore the whole object of the Reforms has been intentionally frustrated and turned to nothing. That Sir, as I have said, is a misconception. The Reforms were never framed upon a financial basis. Those who were responsible for the Reforms did not begin by saying: "We will divide the expenditure of each province into half-and-half, or two-thirds and one-third, or any arbitrary proportion." On the contrary they made a division, which has since been known as "dyarchy," on the basis of functions, and when that division is criticised by an arithmetical standard, the whole scheme of Reforms is being criticised by a criterion which is non-existent. Not only is it non-existent, but the comparison is singularly misleading because, whatever words we may invent to designate subjects—we may call them reserved subjects or transferred subjects or what not—the fact remains that the reserved subjects are those, upon which, very largely, the whole structure of Government rests, and that they are of as equal importance to those in charge of the transferred subjects, as to the members of the Executive Council and, indeed, to all members of the Legislative Council, who presumably have come here to view the Government of the province as a whole, and to assist in the task of improving the administration as a whole. I would therefore deprecate, Sir, the tendency to view the question of finance as one of distinct sides. The administration is one, and, as one, it is of equal interest and importance to us all. It is therefore, incumbent upon us all to see how best the funds at the disposal of the province can be devoted to the maintenance and improvement of the administration in all its branches.

Now, Sir, I turn to my particular departments, and I will commence with that of the Police. The Police, as usual, have come in for a certain amount of denunciation—denunciation, that came so glibly from the lips of so many members, that one is almost tempted to believe that Mr. Hornell prescribes the subject of the iniquities of the police as an essay-subject for every school and college throughout the province. It would be easy to answer these generalities with generalities on the other side, but it is perhaps preferable that we should try and view them in the light of the facts. It is, of course, true that the expenditure on the Police has increased, and it is not unreasonable or unexpected that the Council should desire to know the reasons.

But before passing on to the expenditure side, I would invite attention to a small point, and that is, that the revenue under "Police"

as also grown. The Police is not, of course, a revenue-producing epartment, but the point is relevant as bearing on the administration f the Motor Vehicles Department, the Arms Act Department and the lackney Carriage Department, etc., in Calcutta, which account for ertain additions to the expenditure side, although those additions are n effect made against the fees which those departments bring in. Those epartments are self-supporting, and they bring in revenue as against ie expenditure with which they are concerned. The revenue side of ie Police Budget has risen from Rs. 1,87,000 in 1917-18, to Rs. 3,8 ,000 his year. The sum is a small one, but it is worth remembering.

Turning now to the expenditure side, as I have admitted, there has een a considerable increase during recent years. Since it is the experience of all other countries of the civilised world that a police force is a ecessity, I take it that I am not required to justify the existence of the olice, as such. Human nature being such as it is, their employment s an unfortunate necessity. But the Council is entitled to be satisfied hat for the purposes for which the police force is maintained, it is not aintained in excessive strength and that it is not being paid at excessive ates. On these two points, the Council is fully entitled to all the formation that we can give.

The total strength of the police force in Bengal is some 23,000 in the istricts, and some 5,300 in Calcutta—a total of about 28,000 and odd in ll, and not 99,000 as given by Mr. Janah, who seems to have got his gure by adding in the number of chaukidars. The strength of the police orce proper, as shown in the last annual administration report, is as I ave stated. That number is surely not excessive in a province of 76,000 quare miles, with a population of some 45 millions. The adequacy or xcessiveness of the force can also be judged by other tests, as for nstance, by comparison with other provinces. The comparison is ecessarily rough, but, so far as it goes, it is worth noticing, as it is not o be supposed that, whatever may have been the unfortunate case in Bengal, all other provinces throughout India for so many years have been eized with an inexplicable mania for squandering money on this service. If we look to the proportion of our police force to the population, s compared with other provinces—the figures were worked out in 1918—e find that in Bengal there is one superior officer to 373,000 people—larger number than any other province in India, except Bihar and Orissa, where the police system is based more or less on our own. In Bombay the proportion goes down to 167,000 people. Taking the ubordinate staff, we find that in Bengal we have one subordinate officer to 2,109 people, while in Bombay it goes down to 672 people and n the Punjab to 974. By that general test, I submit, that, *prima facie*, the police force in Bengal is not excessive. But apart from generalities, we have the test of experience, and those who are responsible or the administration of the department, or are connected with it, know well that there is no gross excess in the strength of the police.

It is not without significance that Mr. Stephenson and myself were only the other day approached in the lobby of this Council Chamber by the Traffic Manager of one of our most important railways to provide more police for its protection in the light of the events of the last two or three days. And we could only get that extra force by bringing in men from adjoining districts. That fact is not without its moral. I will mention another. Six months ago when *goondaism* was rampant in Calcutta we received various deputations from Marwaris. And what was their request? "Give us more police; the number that you have given us is not adequate." And what was Mr. Clarke's reply? He said: "I am giving you all the men I can afford, and I find it almost impossible to spare more." Far from it being the case that we are wantonly adding to the strength of the police force, much of the time of Mr. Stephenson and myself is taken up in curtailing and cutting down demands, and the reasons why a certain amount of expansion is unavoidable in the Police Department, are, I think, fairly clear. The country is developing. Conditions are not what they were even five or ten years ago, and every change in the complication of modern life increases the complications with which the police force has to deal. They introduce new forms of crime; they give new facilities to criminals and render necessary more active forces in order to cope with them. There is another change. We have heard a great deal about the industrialism that is going on in India It will go on more rapidly in future. And what is the result? In the place, a few years ago, of a string of peaceful riparian villages, we have now a line of smoking chimneys, surrounded by a dense population of some 5,00,000 people, along either bank of the Hooghly. It is evident that we cannot control a multitude of troublesome coolies with a police force which was thought sufficient for simple villagers. Take, again, the case of Asansol. When I first came to India, Asansol was an arid and sparsely populated tract; it is now dotted with flourishing collieries each employing a large labour force. I will not tire the Council with details, but I will say this, that in some respects, particularly in industrial areas, we are working with a dangerously small margin of police—the more so as industrial unrest, combined to a certain extent with political unrest, nowadays renders the task of controlling large masses of ignorant men most difficult.

So much about the numerical strength of the force, and the factors which have inevitably led to an increase in its number.

As for the cost of the Police, the predominating factor in recent years has been the enhancement of pay which we have found it necessary to give to the Police in consequence of the economic conditions, which are so well known to us, and which have necessitated additions to pay practically in all provinces and in all services. At the risk of boring the Council I would give them a few details of what we have done. It must be remembered that what looks like a small sum to the individual

amounts to a very large one in the aggregate. In connection with the Police, we have had to increase the rates from the top to the bottom. The increased pay of the Imperial Service was sanctioned after a detailed inquiry, but it has not satisfied the officers in that service. Only a few months ago the Government had to decline to support a memorial for a further increase from the members of the service, although it was supported by various responsible public bodies. After the Imperial Service we come to the Deputy Superintendents. Formerly they used to be appointed on Rs. 250, rising to Rs. 500, this we have had to raise to Rs. 200, rising to 600 on a time-scale, with a selection grade on Rs. 700. Here, again, a few months ago we had to deal with a memorial from the Deputy Superintendents, who were discontented and protested against our action. As in the case of the Imperial Service we had to turn down their memorial, but the fact remains that the improved prospects have not satisfied the servants of Government in that branch.

Take, again, the case of the lower ranks—the constables. In 1913 we could get constables in the unarmed branch (the armed branch gets Re. 1 more) at Rs. 8, rising to Rs. 11. In that year we had to raise it to Rs. 10–13, after that to Rs. 14–17, and in November 1920 to Rs. 16–20. Will anybody say that Rs. 16–20 at the present moment is an excessive rate? On the contrary, we are daily attacked in the press for starving our police. As regards head constables, we used to pay them Rs. 15 in 1913. In 1920 we had to raise the pay to Rs. 25–35, some of them being paid at the rate of Rs. 20–30. Finally, sub-inspectors, who used to get Rs. 50, rising to Rs. 100, now receive Rs. 80—130. Individually, all these are very small increases, but they work out to large sums, as the total of some of these revisions show. The total of one is Rs. 4,93,000; of another Rs. 8,81,000, of another Rs. 5,99,000, and so on. Similar details could be cited for Calcutta.

Well, Sir, so much for the general considerations connected with the Police, and at this hour of night I will only mention one detail which has attracted a certain amount of criticism. There are other details and, if anybody wants information about them, I will try to supply them if he comes to my office, but it is impossible to prolong this discussion much longer, and I will only deal with the matter of quarters for married sergeants. The European element in the subordinate Calcutta police is a most important element, and a necessary element, in a huge city constituted such as this. It is the endeavour of the Department to attract a better class of Europeans to the force, but under the terms now offered it is increasingly difficult to get suitable men, and it should be remembered that out of a total sanctioned strength of 154 there are at present 23 vacancies—not a very satisfactory state of affairs. Now one means of attracting and keeping men of this type is obviously to give them facilities for marrying and living as married men. Another point is the necessity of having a certain proportion of these sergeants where they are readily available near the police head-quarters

at Lall Bazar, which is admirably suited for the control of the life of the city. If it is a reasonable thing that we should have a married element in this force, and that we must have our men near Lall Bazar, it is inevitable that the provision of quarters will be somewhat costly. What we do at present is to try to get unsuitable quarters in rather unhealthy neighbourhoods at Rs. 50 a month. In place of that a scheme was initiated for building quarters at Lall Bazar, which, in the aggregate, would accommodate three assistant commissioners, 18 inspectors and 12 sergeants. For these officers hired quarters are at present being taken at a cost of Rs. 2,250 a month, and so there will be a recurring saving of Rs. 27,000 by putting these men into this new barrack, for which in 1919 we have already acquired part of the land. We shall then be able to complete a scheme which will make greatly for the efficiency and contentment of the force. The whole question of the housing of the Calcutta police is of the utmost difficulty. It has never been tackled in the past, and we have gone on a hand to mouth policy of hired quarters. The rent bill in 1918 was a lakh of rupees; in 1919 it was Rs. 3,10,000. That is what we are paying as rent for unsuitable quarters, because in the past enterprise was not shown in acquiring land and building houses. We are trying year by year to take up one or two schemes and, if our funds permit, to gradually put an end to this exceedingly unsatisfactory state of affairs.

Sir, at this late hour, I must now leave the question of Police. I am of course concerned with various other branches of the administration, such as the Civil Service and the Provincial and Subordinate Services, but the only other point on which I will touch is that of European Education.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: The time is up.

The PRESIDENT: I propose that the meeting should last a little longer to-day.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I come to the matter, Sir, of European education. About that we have heard a good deal in the course of this debate, the criticisms falling under two main categories—the one, of a general character, deprecating the expense of the education of domiciled European and Anglo-Indian children; the other directed against individual institutions. Now, Sir, the education of the domiciled European and Anglo-Indian community was described by the University Commission as a matter of great social and political importance, and it has been so regarded ever since the beginning of the last century. That it answers that description is surely obvious. The domiciled European and Anglo-Indian children and their parents are an important element in the life of the community. They constitute an element that can fill a most useful and beneficial place in the prosperity of the community. Is it not to the interest of the community as a

whole to see that the younger generation grows up as educated and useful citizens instead of ne'er-do-weels? Surely the public advantage lies in the direction of education, and that it is so has never been contested since the beginning of the last century when the matter first assumed importance. Now if it is so, the next question the Council may ask is whether the amount expended is excessive. It is obvious that education for this section of the community must be on its own distinctive line—a distinct kind of education. The total amount which the State spends by recent figures on this matter is some Rs. 10¾ lakhs, as against which we have to remember that the rest of the annual bill of Rs. 32 lakhs is contributed by the community itself, either in the shape of fees, subscriptions or endowments. If this community shows that extent of self-effort, it seems to me that it is not unreasonable that the total assistance given by the State should amount to a sum of a little over Rs. 10 lakhs, and as to the adequacy of that expenditure, let the recent report on the affairs of the domiciled community be the judge. Any one reading that report will find that those who investigated the question found that in many respects the education now given was both inadequate and unsatisfactory. Therefore, on general grounds, I submit that we are right in trying to effect improvements in this most important matter, and the expenditure on the institutions, to which reference has been made by name, can be fully and completely justified. Take first the institution of the Kalimpong Homes. This is a vast institution, a monument of what can be done by the zeal and enthusiasm almost of one man—Dr. Graham. It dates back to 1890, and it now contains about 600 children, about half of whom can be fairly classed as destitute. The capital cost of that institution was some Rs. 7,14,000, out of which Government merely contributed some 20 per cent. Looking at it merely as a business transaction, surely we have gained by the generosity of those who gave the balance and by the enterprise of the founder of these Homes, at whose instigation this money was forthcoming. Similarly, against the annual cost of Rs. 3,95,000, the Government grant amounts to only 15 per cent., the rest again coming from subscriptions and endowments, the share of the State being a fraction of the total. Now, this institution has always worked on a system of capitation grants. If they had worked under the ordinary rules, they could have claimed twice the sum they drew, but they have always relied largely on themselves. But with the growth in the number of children and the prevailing high prices, they have found it impossible to carry on, and have come to Government for assistance, which we propose to give them to the extent of Rs. 1½ lakhs in all. The provision in the Budget is Rs. 80,000, the rest coming in as grants under the ordinary code. A similar institution, the Loreto Convent at Entally, which previously worked under the ordinary rules, has come to us for help, and that institution, I am told, takes in some of the poorest children in Calcutta. Now a piece of legislation, which

has long been contemplated, and which will doubtless be shortly brought before this Council, is a Children's Bill, and one necessary part of a Children's Bill will be the provision of homes for the orphaned and the destitute. If private generosity does not come forward to supply these institutions, the State will have to do so. And again I say it is a sound business transaction to encourage private liberality. The two Kurseong schools have particular claims upon assistance from Government, as the children who attend them are practically the children of Government servants. The condition of these schools has long been admitted, even in the old Council, to be thoroughly unsatisfactory, and, so long as we are responsible for their efficient management, we could not refuse the small improvements which can be effected by the very modest sum which appears in the Budget.

Owing to the shortness of the time available I have had to deal most briefly with these two subjects, but with these brief answers to the criticisms that have been offered I must for the time being be content.

The PRESIDENT: I propose to ask His Excellency's permission that this debate should continue till to-morrow in order to enable the remaining official members to give their reply.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned to Friday, the 4th March, at 3 P.M.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on the 4th March, 1921, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Executive Members of Government, the Hon'ble the three Ministers and 90 nominated and elected members.

The Budget, 1921-22.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): Order! Order! I call on Mr. Marr.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, FINANCE DEPARTMENT (Mr. A. Marr): I propose to answer briefly some of the detailed criticisms and comments which have been made in the course of the debate, leaving the more important questions to be dealt with by the Finance Member. The first point I shall deal with was raised by Babu Surendra Nath Ray. He has called attention to the provision of Rs. 45,500 for the Under-Secretary in the Judicial and Political Departments, which appears on page 49 of the Civil Estimates; and he has very naturally asked for an explanation of this item, which is apparently large with reference to the estimates of the two previous years. The reason is that the item provides not only the pay of the Under-Secretary, but also the pay of a Deputy Secretary in the Political Department and also of an Assistant Secretary in the Judicial Department. As regards the latter, a mistake has, however, been made, and it should not have been treated as "non-voted." It will be transferred to the "voted" head in the next edition of the Civil Estimates, which will be in the hands of Members before the detailed discussion begins on the 14th of March. The Deputy Secretary and Under-Secretary, being members of the Indian Civil Service, however, their pay has been correctly debited to the "non-voted" head. The fact that the heading here is "Under-Secretary" is an illustration of one of the difficulties we have experienced in dealing with the estimates in their new form. The headings are prescribed by the Comptroller-General and we have to fill them up as best as we can. We will call the attention of the Comptroller-General to the fact that this head or some similar head ought to provide for the new post of Deputy Secretary. Whether he will be willing to alter the heading or not, I cannot say, but if he does not, we shall in future years explain items of this kind by means of a footnote.

Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy has asked us for an explanation of the contingent charges on page 144 of the Civil Estimates. It will be seen

that this provision of Rs. 3 lakhs is due to the fact that the grant for contingent charges made to district officers and others has been found during recent years to be quite inadequate. It is from this head of account that local officers make their ordinary every-day purchases of small things like country stationery, petty items of furniture and the like; also telegram and postal charges. The latter item, we hear, is about to be increased. The prices of these things have gone up so much within recent years that it is quite impossible to keep the local officers going on the grants which sufficed before the war. We are, therefore, undertaking a revision of the contract contingent grants of all mufassal officers, and this lump provision of Rs. 3 lakhs under the Miscellaneous head is what we estimate roughly at present likely to be necessary for the purpose. When the revision has been completed, this item will be distributed under the proper heads; but, for the present, it is a lump sum which we show under Miscellaneous.

There has been a certain amount of criticism of the increase recently granted under the orders of the Government of India to pensioners drawing less than Rs. 50; and it has been urged that while the case of these men is deserving of sympathy, we should first provide for the lower paid servants of Government. Well, the Budget, as you are aware, contains a large sum of over Rs. 45 lakhs for the increase of the pay of ministerial and menial establishments, and also other items for the increase of the pay of the special services, like the Subordinate Education Services. In any case, this relief to pensioners is an all-India question. It has been settled under the orders of the Government of India, and we can hardly refuse to give those pensioners who live in Bengal the relief which has been extended to other pensioners in a similar position in the rest of India.

Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has told us of the great shock which he experienced on finding that the pay of Ministers is to be "non-voted." Well, this is purely a legal question. We are advised by our legal advisers that, the Council having the other day rejected various proposals which were put before it in relation to the salary of Ministers, the order passed by His Excellency the Governor, when the new Government was formed, stands good. The pay of Ministers must, therefore, be regarded as fixed by law, and under section 72 D (3) of the Government of India Act, it cannot be submitted to the vote of the Council. Apart from this legal position, I think that the Council will agree that it is not a sound thing that we should have discussions every few months about the pay of Ministers.

Some members have complained of the cost of the revision of the establishments, and have suggested that this matter ought to have been left pending until the new Council came into existence, when it could exercise its powers to veto. As to this, I should like to remind the Council that the question of the pay of the superior services generally was

inquired into by the Public Services Commission so far back as 1912. The Commission found, on grounds which are fully stated in their report, that it was necessary to level up the pay of these superior services generally, both Indian and European, in order to attract the same class of recruits as had been aimed at when the pay was originally fixed a generation before. Then the war broke out and the Commission's recommendations were held in abeyance for several years. Effect was given to them, in the case of most of the superior services, more than a year ago, after these services had been kept waiting for six or seven years. I do not think that, when this long-deferred revision of salaries was finally settled in December, 1919, the Bengal Government, or the Government of India, could reasonably have asked their officers to wait for a further period until the Reforms Scheme came into existence. In this connection, it may be interesting if I give the Council the following figures, showing approximately what this increase of pay for the various services has amounted to:—

Imperial Services.

	1921-22 Rs.
Indian Civil Service	2,78,000
Imperial Forest Service	50,000
Imperial Police Service	1,28,000
Indian Educational Service	60,000
Indian Medical Service	80,000
Indian Agricultural Service	19,000
Imperial Engineering Service	40,000
Total ..	6,55,000

Provincial Services.

	Rs.
Bengal Civil Service ..	4,98,000
Provincial Judicial Service ..	7,20,000
Provincial Educational Service ..	1,60,000
Provincial Medical Service, Military and Civil	3,00,000
Provincial Agricultural Service	7,000
Provincial Veterinary Service	7,000
Bengal Engineering Service	1,11,000
Total ...	18,03,000

Colonel Pugh has challenged us to furnish an explanation of the excess expenditure of the year 1921-22 over that for the year now coming to a close. The Finance Member dealt with this matter pretty fully in his speech on the introduction of the Budget; and I am very reluctant to take up the time of the Council by going into it in detail now. The Hon'ble Mr. Kerr showed that of the excess of Rs. 2,65,00,000 no less than Rs. 1,29,00,000 or nearly half was due to two items, namely:—

(1) the Rs. 63 lakhs due as our contribution to the Government of India under the Reforms Scheme; and

(2) the item of Rs. 66 lakhs under the Miscellaneous head, most of which is accounted for by the contemplated increase of the pay of ministerial officers.

Then he took the Council through the expenditure statements on page 10 of his Budget Review and showed exactly how all the departmental increases exceeding Rs 5 lakhs have been accounted for. This left a balance of Rs. 40 lakhs, made up of individual items of less than Rs. 5 lakhs in each case, and for an explanation of these he referred the Council to the details given in my review. His speech and the two reviews, I think, furnish a full explanation of this excess, and I do not propose to go into the matter further at present.

Babu Sailaja Nath Ray Chaudhuri complained, I understand, that no provision had been made in the Budget for famine relief or scarcity, and he inquired how we should meet the cost of any famine or scarcity, if such relief be unfortunately found necessary in the course of the year. I would refer him to page 50 of my review, where it will be seen that we have made a provision of Rs 2 lakhs under the head "43 Famine Relief and Insurance." The details will be found on page 131 of the Civil Estimates. This has been done in accordance with the provisions of the Devolution Rules and it is therefore not "voted." Under Rule 29 and Schedule 4 of the Devolution Rules we are bound to make a provision of Rs. 2 lakhs a year for the Famine Insurance Fund, until that fund reaches a total of Rs. 12 lakhs. Any famine relief, that we may have to incur during the years we are building up the fund, will be debited to the fund, and we should have to make that good in later years; but, once we have reached a total of Rs. 12 lakhs, we shall not have to make any further contribution to the fund, except to the extent of making good any amount, which we may take from the fund either for the actual relief of famine, or for the prevention of famine by the construction of protective irrigation works or similar works.

We have not asked the Council to vote any expenditure from this fund in the coming year, as we hope and trust that the need will not arise. If it does arise, however, a supplementary estimate will be submitted in the course of the year to the Council, and the Council will be asked to vote the necessary expenditure.

Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri has inquired as to why the pensions of Judges are shown as non-voted in the Civil Estimates. He appeared to argue that only the salaries of Judges should be non-voted. This, I think, is due to a misunderstanding of section 72 D (3) of the Government of India Act. It is true that sub-clause (*c*) mentions only the salaries of the Judges of the High Court and of the Advocate-General, but just above this provision will be found another, stating that the salaries and pensions of officers appointed by or with the approval of His Majesty or by the Secretary of State in Council are also excluded from the voted head. This covers all permanent Judges, since they are appointed with the approval of His Majesty. I do not quite know why the salaries of High Court Judges are specially mentioned lower down; but probably because it is intended to cover the case of temporary Judges of the High Court or acting Judges, whose appointments, I believe, do not require the approval of His Majesty. Such temporary or acting Judges are not entitled to pension until they have served their full time as permanent Judges; and therefore, presumably, it is only the salaries of Judges which are mentioned in the separate head relating to Judges.

Babu Jatindra Nath Basu inquired why a provision of Rs. 2 lakhs has been made for expenditure under Salt, and also who pays for the construction and up-keep of the Salt Golas at Sulkea and Kidderpore. Salt is wholly Imperial; the Government of India pay all charges, and the Government of Bengal simply work as their Agents in running the department. If members will turn to page 33 of the Civil Estimates, they will find that the item of Rs. 2 lakhs referred to by Babu Jatindra Nath Basu is a deduction from our total expenditure and not an addition. This is the sum handed over to us by the Government of India for administrating the work of the Salt Department. The same member also asked what the arrangement is between us and the Government of India as to unified postal and revenue stamps. When the system of allowing postal stamps to be used for revenue purposes was introduced, the Government of India calculated what the loss to each provincial Government would be, and made a corresponding assignment to that Government. We got credit for this in our financial settlement, and in the detailed account No. VII A on page 11 of the Civil Estimates members will find the entry relating to this item.

We have heard much in the last few days of the grants given by the Government of India for special purposes, which now form part of our accumulated balances, and perhaps the members of this Council may be interested in the details of these unspent balances so far as we have been able to work them out. I would point out to the Council, however, that the figures which I am about to give are only approximate and that we shall not be able to know the actual figures, until we get the detailed audited accounts of the year 1920-21 later on in the year.

According to the revised estimate, as framed in the second edition, the unspent balances of these grants at the end of this year, as roughly estimated, will amount to:—

	Rs.
Education	1,17,57,000
Technical Education	20,000
Agricultural Education	1,45,000
Sanitation	65,86,000
Total ...	1,85,08,000

The Budget under consideration is, of course, subject to the vote of this Council; but, on the assumption that it will be passed as it stands, the following items would be debitable to these grants:—

	Rs.
Grant to Dacca University	9,00,000
Provision for works in progress in connection with the Dacca University buildings ...	2,00,000
Provision for Dacca Intermediate Board ...	40,000
Construction of bungalows for Civil Officers, Dacca, taken over by the Dacca University ...	1,44,000
Provision for new buildings for the Education Department in Public Works Department Budget	3,11,000
Provision for works in progress of the Education buildings in the Public Works Department Budget	6,84,000
The present recurring Imperial grant is Rs. 41,81,000, and the whole of this sum has been provided in the next year's Budget, and therefore this is debitable to the unspent balances of Imperial grants	41,81,000
	64,60,000

Technical Education.

We have provided much more than the balance of Rs. 20,000.	20,000

Agricultural Education.

A provision of Rs. 20,000 has been made in the Public Works Department Budget for Chinsura Agricultural schools	20,000
Dacca Agricultural School	2,000

Then, as regards Sanitation, after excluding all provision for establishment, practically the whole of the expenditure in the Sanitation Budget is for sanitation schemes, and it can all be debited to the unspent balances. We have calculated roughly that in the next year's Budget Rs. 14,46,000 will be debitable to the unspent balances, besides Rs. 1,42,000 provided in the Irrigation Budget for drainage and anti-malarial schemes. The total of the items I have mentioned is Rs. 80,90,000. In addition to these, the Intermediate Colleges at Dacca are estimated to cost at least Rs. 16½ lakhs altogether. The expenditure will also be debited to the grants for Education. After allowing for this, we shall have an unspent balance of Rs. 87,68,000 at the credit of these grants at the end of the year 1921-22.

As against this balance of about Rs. 87½ lakhs, we shall have an estimated closing balance of Rs. 52 lakhs and the Provincial Loan Account of about Rs. 86 lakhs. Funds will, therefore, be available, when schemes to be financed from these grants are ready.

There is apparently some misunderstanding in the Council as to what the non-voted charges consist of; and I regret that this was one of the points which we omitted to make clear in our Budget Review. The "non-voted" items are of two kinds: first, there are the appointments mentioned in section 72 D (3) of the Government of India Act, and second, there are the charges on account of the excluded areas which are dealt with in section 52 A of the Act. In regard to these excluded areas, which in this province consist of the Darjeeling district and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the Government of India issued on the 3rd January last a notification declaring that the provisions of the Government of India Act about the submission of expenditure proposals to the Legislative Council shall not apply to the proposals for expenditure. All these items had therefore to be shown as "non-voted."

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): My colleagues, the Members of the Executive Council and Ministers have dealt with the matters affecting their departments, which have been raised in the course of this debate, and Mr Marr has explained certain financial details, towards which criticism has been directed. It remains for me to deal with the broader questions of principle, which are involved in the Budget and in the financial policy of the Bengal Government. Many epithets have been hurled at my unfortunate head during the last three days, but I think the most usual has been "optimistic." I have no objection to being called optimistic, whether in the good or in the bad sense, but I was never sufficiently optimistic to believe that this Budget would be received with any marked enthusiasm by the Council. I fully share the disappointment that has been generally expressed, that the new constitution should have to start work with straitened means and insufficient resources; and moreover that we cannot hold out any definite hopes at the present

moment that the position will be improved in the immediate future. As I have already told the Council on several occasions, we are in correspondence with the Government of India on the subject; but no definite decision has been arrived at; and we cannot, therefore, make any definite plans for the future at present. It would, of course, have been very much pleasanter for me and for all of us, if we could have put a fine fat surplus before the Council, and asked for their advice as to how it should be spent. But unfortunately, through no fault of our own, that is not the situation which we have to face. I say, and I ask the Council to endorse my saying, that the present situation is no fault of the present Government. But I fully realise that that does little to mitigate the natural sense of disappointment felt by the Council; and that disappointment naturally shows itself in a certain amount of resentment against the Finance Department, who are responsible for presenting this Budget to the Council. I do not, therefore, complain in any way of resentment against the Finance Department; but I must say that I am surprised at the unfair, and I might almost say ungenerous, criticism, which has been levelled at the Ministers in regard to their responsibility for the Budget. Ministers are very well able to look after themselves, but, having been closely associated with them for the past two months, I cannot forbear from saying something on the subject. I have listened to most of the speeches, which have been made in this Council during this week, and I think that I am right in saying that Mr. Stark is almost the only member who has shown any appreciation of the position of Ministers in regard to this matter. I alluded to this subject in my speech, when I introduced the Budget, but, in view of the remarks which have been made, I may be allowed to recapitulate the position briefly.

The present Government came into office on the 3rd January last. It found in existence the Departmental Budgets prepared on the ordinary lines, which Mr. Surendra Nath Mullick described as the traditional lines, and I will give reasons presently to show why they were traditional. Well, the Government had to deal with this Budget in less than a week, for the main Budget figures had to reach the Government of India by the 15th of January, and we had to start writing our Budget letter a few days before that. In these circumstances, I am surely right in describing some of the criticisms which have been levelled at the Ministers as ungenerous. Colonel Pugh asked: where is the evidence in the Budget of signs that Ministers have any policy? Well, I ask the Council if it is reasonable to require Ministers to produce a policy within a week. The Ministers as sensible men had to accept the situation; they could not raid the reserved departments and grab money for schemes on the transferred side. Even if schemes had been ready, Ministers could not have come to a final conclusion about their adoption within a week. I may say that this particular difficulty was foreseen, when the date for the introduction of the reformed

constitution was under discussion. It was then suggested—and I do n think it was a bad suggestion—that it would be best if the Reform Government and the Reformed Council came into being on the 1st April next. They would then have had a Budget cut and dried for the on which they would have worked during the course of next financ year; but for which they would have had no responsibility. They wou have had six or eight months from April next, in which to settle do to their work and to study the administrative problems of the depa ments in their charge, and would have been in a position next Octol or November to put up a reasoned Budget for the following year. Th however, was not the course that was followed. Under the orders higher authority the Reformed Government and the Reformed Coun came into existence on the 3rd January last. It is, therefore, necess for them to discuss and settle the Budget, which will come into force the next financial year. I do not grumble in the least at the Coun complaining of the financial situation; but I do say that it is unfair hold Ministers in the circumstances, which I have explained, respo sible for the Budget proposals, in the same manner as it will be possi to hold them responsible in future years, when they will have a hand framing the Budget from its inception.

These considerations are applicable to much that has been sa regarding the allocation of funds between reserved and transferr departments. The Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler has dealt with son aspects of this question, and I will only take up the technical side order to clear up the misunderstanding which seems to exist. The are two of the Devolution Rules bearing on this matter—31 and 32.

Rule 31 lays down that the allocation of the expenditure estima between the reserved and transferred subjects is a matter for agreeme between the two sides of the Government. Well, that is the rule un which we worked this year; there was agreement and there was no nec sity to go on and apply rule 32. That rule enables the Governor, if is satisfied that there is no hope of agreement between Members a Ministers as to the apportionment of funds, to allocate the revenues a balances by specifying fractional proportions, but this is only a l resort, and I imagine it might be a very unsatisfactory resort. A how, there was no necessity to resort to this expedient this year. W had no fractional proportions in our minds, when we sat down to co sider the Budget in the first week of January. We took the depa mental demands as we found them. We saw that the total was mo than we could afford, and we cut down the demands of the differe departments on their merits. As a matter of general interest, we su sequently worked out the proportions between the reserved and t transferred sides, but we did not allocate on the basis of the proportio and our judgment was swayed solely by the needs of different depa ments and not at all by any theoretical proportions.

Of course, as the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler has said, these proportions are very misleading, unless their limitations are clearly understood. Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri gave an instance yesterday in his question about the Public Works Department. That Department is on the transferred side, but it puts up and maintains buildings for all Departments, and this fact has to be borne in mind in considering the allocation of its expenditure to the transferred side. I can give an instance on the other side. The Finance Department serves all the Departments, but the whole of the cost of the Finance Department is debited to the reserved head, though the financial administration of the province is a matter of concern to Ministers just as much as to Members. Unless these considerations are borne in mind, the percentages which have been quoted in this debate give an entirely misleading impression. All that can be said for them is that, if you follow the same system of calculation for different years, you do get a rough basis for comparing the allocation of one year with that of another.

Now, I should like to say a few words regarding some of the criticisms, which have been made during the last few days on the form of the Budget and the nature of the information supplied in connection with the Budget. I frankly admit that many of these criticisms are well deserved, though I should like to say that the many acute comments which have been made in the course of this debate on the financial position show that some members at least have been able to probe the Budget thoroughly. However, I have no doubt that the task of these members has been rendered more difficult than it might have been, and for this I apologise to the Council. I can only plead in extenuation that we had to frame the Budget and the Budget Review on the old lines, simply because we had no time to invent new lines. Now that we know what sort of information the Council want in connection with the Budget, we will do our best to supply it in future years. We have already done so in connection with the Civil Works Budget by supplying the detailed statement of works in progress, which was given to members the day before yesterday. One factor, for which we did not make sufficient allowance, is the change in the procedure this year. Under the old system, the detailed Budget discussion preceded the general discussion. From what I gather, I suspect that in former years a good many members did not take the trouble to study the Budget papers very carefully. They attented the detailed discussions and picked up sufficient information to enable them to take a useful part in the general discussion. Now, however, we have adopted the House of Commons procedure, under which the general discussion precedes the detailed discussions, and we will bear this in mind in drawing up the Budget in future years. Several members have made suggestions to me, or have promised to give me suggestions after the Budget discussion is over; and I shall be very grateful to receive any suggestions of this

kind, and will undertake to do our best to give effect to them. I cannot promise to satisfy everybody, for one reason that the Budget heads are prescribed not by us but by the Comptroller and Auditor-General; and we have no power to alter them. We can, however,—and I quite agree that we should—supply fuller information by means of footnotes and otherwise, in cases where the entries under the prescribed Budget heads are not altogether clear without some explanation; and this we will endeavour to do in future. There is another matter, in which we shall have difficulty in satisfying everybody. One member told me the other day that he wanted much fuller explanation about the various Budget provisions, but, he added that the main fault that he had to find was that the Budget statements were far too bulky. Well, I am afraid it will be difficult to supply fuller detailed information without making the Budget statements even more bulky than they are at present. But, as I have said, we will do our best to improve matters in this respect next year.

Another matter regarding which there has been some criticism, and I think some misunderstanding, is the question of the repayment of our provincial loan account with the Government of India. The criticism has been made that we should have taken advantage of the provision in the Devolution Rules and paid off this sum of Rs. 86 lakhs by instalments, spread over 12 years. Well, this is not a new question; it was first started in 1919 when the discussion on the financial arrangements to be made in connection with the Reforms first began. It was then generally agreed that it would be a sound thing for us to pay off our loan account with the Government of India as early as possible and enjoy the whole of the interest, which we draw on this account from local bodies and agriculturists. The Meston Committee referred, with approval, to the decision of the Government of Bengal and some other local Governments to pay off their provincial loan at the starting of the Reforms, but the Governments of Bombay and the United Provinces suggested the instalment system, and this was put in the Devolution Rules to meet their views. So far as Bengal is concerned, however, the repayment of the present loan account must be regarded as part of the general bargain made in connection with the Financial Settlement under the Reforms Scheme. It was come to long before the present Budget came under consideration, and neither the present Government of Bengal nor the present Legislative Council had, of course, any responsibility for the decision. It may be said that we should go up to the Government of India and ask for a reconsideration of this portion of the Financial Settlement, but I am by no means certain that it would be to our advantage to do so. Under the Devolution Rules we have to pay interest on the provincial loan account at a rate calculated on the average rate carried by the total amount owed to the Governor-General in Council on this account on the 31st March, 1921. A portion of our loan account

was borrowed some years ago at the low rate of 3½ per cent., but since 1916 the rates levied by the Government of India have been 4½ and 5½ per cent. The actual rate of interest calculated on the principle laid down in the Devolution Rules is about 4 per cent., and if we paid this loan in 12 annual instalments, the annual instalment would be Rs. 9,16,000 and the total cost in 12 years would be nearly Rs. 110 lakhs that is to say, Rs. 24 lakhs more than what we should have to pay if we paid off our loan immediately. It may be said that we should lose more by paying off the Rs 86 lakhs at once and then borrowing at the current rate of interest for new schemes, but there are two reasons why it is impracticable to make any comparison of this kind. In the first place we should not borrow till we actually want the money, and, as I told the Council the other day, we cannot borrow any considerable sum of money or any sum at all for non-productive purposes, until we have established equilibrium between our revenue and expenditure. Till we settle for what object we propose to borrow, we cannot fix the life of the loan or the sinking fund or calculate the total cost of the loan. We cannot, therefore, estimate what it will cost us to borrow money for some undetermined object at some undetermined date in the future. In the second place, I think some members of the Council entertain exaggerated ideas as to what we could do with this sum of Rs 86 lakhs, if the Government of India allowed it to remain in our balances and allowed us to pay it off by instalments. Colonel Pugh, I think, said that we should hand over the Rs. 86 lakhs to the Sanitary Commissioner and let him do what he likes with it. Well, I am sure that the Sanitary Commissioner would not be prepared to spend Rs. 86 lakhs at a moment's notice, and I am quite certain we should not be prepared to entrust him with money in this way. A Budget is an annual estimate. We cannot budget for schemes which are not yet born. This procedure is definitely barred by the rules and is obviously unsound finance. Moreover, I am quite certain that the Government of India would not let us draw on our balances for any purpose of this kind. They would say: "Oh, no. You owe us Rs. 86 lakhs and, having regard to your financial position, we must insist on your keeping a sum actually in the balances sufficient to ensure our being repaid before the expiry of the time mentioned in the Devolution Rules."

We could not, therefore, use this money as we please, even if we asked the Government of India to let us keep it in our balances. I think, therefore, that the payment of the loan account is the best course that we can pursue, and it would be unsound to defer the repayment when we can see clearly that that course would entail a very definite financial disadvantage in a total loss of Rs. 24 lakhs, while, if the Government of India refused to let us use this money for provincial schemes, as they certainly would, there would be no advantages at all.

Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri took the other point of view. He argued that we ought to have paid off this loan long ago; but this was

not a course open to the late Government of Bengal, nor is it open to the present Government of Bengal to pay off the loan before the 1st April next, as that is the date on which this particular portion of the Devolution Rules will come into force.

Some other members have argued or suggested that the repayment of the provincial loan account should appear in the "voted" portion of our Budget estimates. But this, again, is a matter which is not open to us to do under the law. The repayment of this provincial loan account, whether by instalments or in a lump sum, falls within section 72 D (3) of the Government of India Act, and is consequently non-voted. It is for this reason that in order to make our financial position perfectly clear, we have put the repayment of the loan account at the foot of the expenditure statement on page 2 of the Budget Review as an item of expenditure which we have to make after the 1st April next, but which will not be submitted to the vote of the Council.

Now I come to the main question of the deficit and of the measures proposed for meeting it. The deficit is the difference between our recurring income under the heads of revenue allotted to us and the expenditure, which we consider it necessary to meet during the coming year. This difference amounts, as the Council know, to something over 2 crores of rupees. Now, in order to establish equilibrium between our income and our expenditure, there were three courses open to us. The first course was to impose fresh taxation; the second course was to reduce expenditure, and the third course was that which we have adopted —that of drawing on our balances. There are objections to each one of these three courses; and the question which was before the Government in January last, and is before the Council now, is which of these three courses is open to the least objection. Now as to taxation, Mr. Travers seemed to blame the Government for not coming up to the Council with proposals for fresh taxation. But taxation schemes require careful consideration. Provincial taxation is an entirely new thing and we could not, even if we had thought it proper, lay proposals for taxation before this Council within a few weeks of our coming into existence. Moreover, I may say, the inclusion of taxation proposals in the Budget would not tend to make it popular and it is surely premature to impose taxation before we are quite sure that we cannot get the money in any way.

As to reduction of expenditure, Mr. S. R. Das has made an earnest appeal to us to cut off Rs. 80 or Rs. 90 lakhs from the expenditure side of the Budget and keep that sum in reserve for purposes not yet specified but to be decided on in the course of the year after schemes have been drawn up. Well, we have given much thought to this matter since Mr. Das's proposal was first made, but I am afraid it is impracticable. We have already pruned the Budget bare; the original demands of the Departments totalled to a sum much larger than that

which we have actually included in the Budget. We could not reduce further without starving essential public services and producing administrative chaos. There are still a few schemes left in the Budget as to the urgency of which legitimate difference of opinion may exist, and the Council will have an opportunity of considering these schemes and of coming to a decision about them, when the detailed discussion begins on the 14th March. But at most we could not expect to save more than a comparatively small amount in this way. The fact is that we can fairly claim that our administration is economical. I make this assertion deliberately, in full knowledge of the fact that the Council will within the next few weeks have an opportunity, which it never had before, of scrutinising the expenditure proposals of the various departments of Government in detail. I think I can safely say that after that examination it will not be possible to call our administration extravagant. For years we have been restricted to an income which has been barely sufficient to enable us to carry on the ordinary administration of the province in the most economical, and I might say, in the most parsimonious fashion. Occasionally we have had, under the unsound system in force, doles from the Government of India which have enabled us to embark on objects which are regarded with more popular favour than the ordinary administrative duties of a local Government. But these administrative duties must be carried on, and I must warn the Council that, however, carefully the Budget may be pruned, there is little hope of effecting any great saving under the ordinary administrative heads. Moreover, if the Council decide to spend a large amount of money on new schemes outside the scope of the provincial administration as it has hitherto been understood, we shall have to ask the Government to impose taxation to find the money. I think there is no doubt about that fact, and there is no use burking it. This consequence was clearly foreseen by the authors of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report, who said in paragraph 265, while dealing with this question of the expansion of administrative activities under the Reforms Scheme: "We are bound to recognise that in time new taxation will be necessary, for no conceivable economies can finance the developments that are to be anticipated."

Turning to another point in connection with my claim that our administration is economical, Babu Sarat Chandra Janah gave us a mass of figures the other day showing the expenditure on various objects in different countries, but he failed to supply us with any information as to the income of the Governments of the countries which he mentioned. Members of the Council, who are interested in such questions, will find a heap of information about them in the ordinary works of reference, such as the Statesman's Year Book and similar books of reference, but the figures require to be studied as a whole. I will give only one illustration.

Members will find that the Budget of Great Britain last year, apart from all war debts and loan accounts, amounted to over one thousand

million pounds or 15 hundred crores of rupees. I do not say that the circumstances of Bengal are in any way comparable to those of Great Britain, except that the population is about the same. But I do claim that the figures in the British Budget, which I have quoted, justify me in saying that we are not erring on the side of extravagance, when we carry on the administration of Bengal for a sum of 12 crores of rupees a year. I would ask the Council to consider the matter calmly from this point of view. It does not help matters in the very least to denounce the Budget as an insult to the nation or to threaten to reject the Budget if large cuts are not made from the reserved side for the benefit of the transferred side. The Budget is made up of a large number of separate items, and it is the duty, I submit, of the Council to examine each item, and to see whether the provision for it is justified or not. I ask the Council, therefore, to suspend judgment on the Budget as a whole, until it has had an opportunity of considering the detailed grants.

This, I think, is all I need say about the possibility of reducing expenditure. As to the expedient of drawing on the balances, to meet the deficit, I admit that there is the objection that we greatly diminish our ability to finance capital schemes in future years, but Mr. Mair has shown that we shall still be in a position to meet our moral obligations in regard to the grants which were made for specific purposes. I fear that in the circumstances of the present year there is no other course open to us but to draw on our balances to meet the deficit. I do not wish to take up the position of a shallow optimist, but there is no use in meeting trouble half-way. We are not justified at the present time in assuming that our deficit will be permanent. The Joint Committee have said that special consideration should be given to our financial difficulties, and the Secretary of State has told us that the matter is under his consideration. We are justified, therefore, in entertaining hopes that something will be done to produce equilibrium between our income and our expenditure. When we get the final decision of the Secretary of State on this subject, we shall have to take stock of our position, and if that decision is unfavourable, or does not meet our requirements in full, we shall have to decide what steps we are going to take either to increase our revenue or to reduce expenditure. I am very glad to find that in the course of the debate several practical suggestions have been made as to the methods by which we could increase our annual resources. We have already taken up one matter which was mentioned by Babu Jatindra Nath Basu, namely, the levy of stamp duty on share transfer certificates, and the other suggestions we shall proceed to consider in due course. But the time for taking general stock of our position is not yet come. When it does come, we shall, of course, take the Council into our confidence.

I do not think Babu Surendra Nath Ray was justified in complaining of our lack of confidence in the Council. It is true that we cannot at the present moment publish our current correspondence with the Government of India about the deficit, but we have kept, and will keep the Government of India fully informed of the views of the Council with regard to this matter, and we will give the Council all the information it needs to enable it to form correct views on the situation. I was not here at the time of the Meston Committee's inquiries; but I have studied the papers carefully, and I find ample evidence that Mr. Ray and other gentlemen received the fullest assistance from the Finance Department in formulating their views for presentation to the Committee. That policy the Finance Department will continue to pursue, and I do not think we shall give the Council any cause for complaint in this respect.

Well, Sir, that is our position. We are entitled to regard our present financial position as temporary. It clearly cannot continue. We must effect equilibrium between our revenue and expenditure or we shall come to grief, and we are not going to come to grief. But this year we have resources in our balances, and I think the Council will agree that, as a temporary expedient, our best course was to adopt the line of least resistance, as Babu Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta called it, and to draw on our balances, instead of imposing taxation or reducing the administration to a state of inefficiency by hasty and ill-conceived measures of retrenchment. Let us wait and see what our financial prospects finally are before we commit ourselves to any irrevocable action.

We have been told that the Budget in its present form is a menace to the success of the Reforms. I cannot understand arguments of this kind. Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea has dealt with this matter much more eloquently than I can, but I may say a few words on it from the point of view of a practical administrator. There is no financial principle involved in the Reforms, and I would urge that we ought not to confuse the issues by mixing up a temporary financial stringency with the success of the Reforms. Our financial position is unsatisfactory, most unsatisfactory, but in every-day administration we are always running up against something unsatisfactory. We cannot have everything our own way all the time, and it would be very bad for us if we did. The art of administration consists largely in making the best of a bad business while doing all that is possible to improve things for the future. I ask the Council to take a practical view of the Budget as a series of business proposals set forth under a series of major heads. We commend these proposals to the Council as the best proposals that can in our judgment be put before the Council at the present time, and we ask the Council to consider them calmly and carefully on their merits. If the Council will look at the Budget from this point of view, I have little doubt of the result.

Resolutions
(under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest).

The PRESIDENT: The discussion of the Budget is now finished and I now turn to the next item in the list of business, namely, the resolutions on matters of general public interest. I call upon Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur to move the first resolution.

I am informed that Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur is absent owing to illness, but he has asked that the resolution be postponed. I accordingly postpone the first resolution.

As regards the second resolution, it covers a part of the ground covered by the first resolution, and Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta is willing that this also should be postponed. I think it will be convenient if both be discussed together. I accordingly postpone this resolution also.

As regards the third, it is only an amendment to the second resolution, so that will also be postponed

The next resolution stands in the name of Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur He is absent and has not made any request to postpone this resolution The resolution will, therefore, be deemed to have been withdrawn.

The motions were as follows:—

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: This Council recommends to the Government that a Technological and Agricultural College on the standard of the great Technological Colleges affiliated to the Universities of Great Britain and America granting B.Sc., M.Sc. and D.Sc. degrees affiliated to the Calcutta University and closely related to the University as in other countries, should be established at Calcutta without delay.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: This Council recommends to the Government that a Technological Institute be established in Calcutta, and that due provision be made in the next year's budget for this purpose.

Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY *to move, by way of amendment to* motion No. 2, that the question of the establishment of a Technological Institute in Calcutta be referred to the Director of Industries and his advisory board for an early report on the general question and for a definite scheme for consideration, before financial allotments are made.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: This Council recommends to the Government that three standing committees be appointed by the Government, consisting of elected members of the Council, to advise the three Ministers in the matter of the administration of the subjects under their charge.

Cart-drivers.

Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY: I beg leave to withdraw my resolution with permission to reintroduce it with such additions and alterations as I may deem necessary.

The resolution was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn. It was as follows:—This Council recommends to the Government to consider the expediency of legislating against cart-drivers carrying whips and *lathis* when driving their carts."

Strikes among workmen.

Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: "This Council recommends to the Government that a committee be formed consisting of two elected members, representing Industries and Commerce, two ordinary elected members, two nominated members, and one official member of the Council to inquire into the causes of recent strikes of workmen and advise what measures should be adopted by the Government to conciliate disputes between the employers and the employees in future."

I beg to move this resolution for the formation of a committee to inquire into the causes of recent strikes, etc. Strikes and concerted refusal to work seem to be the order of the day and have lately, as in the case of the Tramways and Lillooah Carriage Workshop men, culminated in terrorism and violence unprecedented in the history of Bengal. It is therefore high time, Sir, that a serious and impartial inquiry into the root-cause of this new Industrial Insurrection be made promptly and vigorously to allay panic and reassure public opinion and devise remedies. According to official statistics and my own inquiries there were 139 strikes between 1st July, 1920 and 28th February, 1921—in eight months and the number of men involved exceeds 270,000. With few exceptions, the demand for higher wages was the cause of these strikes. This demand was met in full in 12 per cent. of the cases, 66 per cent. were settled by meeting the strikers' demands partially, and the rest viz., 22 per cent. returned to work without any gain. The number of working days lost by these strikes, including the Tramways and Lillooah Carriage Works' stoppage, exceed 1·8 million days, viz., 18 lakhs of days, which number is arrived at by the number of idle days multiplied by the number of different strikers, *e.g.*, nearly 70,000 working days were lost by 2,500 Tramway men, who struck for 28 days. These figures tell pathetic tales of bitterness, ill-feeling, misery, and in many cases of semi-starvation on the part of the strikers. The industries and trades most affected by these strikers are—Jute Mills, 150,000 men struck, Building Trades Engineering Works, 35,000 men struck; Transport (Taxi and Tramway men), 6,000 struck; Collieries, 2,000 men struck; Paper Mills, Railway Workshops, 16,000 men struck, and other small industries. Sir, I find by taking the average earning of our industrial workers, men, women and children, at 8 annas per day, that the wages lost by 270,000 hands amount to 9 lakhs of rupees, and the employers' estimated loss, immediate and prospective, is at least three times that. I have taken the average loss of four factories supplied to me confidentially. Bengal was thus poorer by 36 lakhs of rupees in less than eight months,

not to speak of serious public inconvenience and hardship, personal injuries—as in the case of the Tramway and the East Indian Railway carriage builders' strikes—great dislocation of traffic and consequent loss to other industries.

The question before us is—Could these strikes have been avoided, or even, if the strikes were inevitable, could they have been settled more promptly and on more mutually advantageous terms to both parties? The question before us is—Can the Government set up a machinery to deal with strikes in future, or help in the removal of the causes of these strikes? Is the State justified in interfering in disputes between Labour and Capital? Sir, it is necessary to give a very concise account of the growth of Bengal industries and economic conditions, under which labour thrives in this part of the world—labour which contributed largely to our material prosperity. The paid-up capital of joint stock companies in Bengal controlling most of the leading industries and the economic destiny of several lakhs of our workers, men, women and children has gone up from 26 crores of rupees in 1912 to nearly 43 crores of rupees in 1918. The authorised capital of Companies registered in Calcutta in 1919 and 1920, when the boom was on, exceeds 114 crores of rupees and, assuming that 25 per cent is paid up, the total paid-up capital invested in Bengal exceeds 70 crores of rupees to-day. I have chosen the period beginning with 1912, as Bihar and Orissa ceased to be parts of Bengal from that year. The industrial labour force increased in our province from 500,000 to 750,000 hands during the short period of eight years. These figures are compiled from official and non-official reports, and are only approximate. Of these 750,000 hands—a great portion of whom are immigrants to Bengal—Jute Mills, with a paid-up capital of nearly 12 crores of rupees employ by far the largest number, viz., 264,000 and more. If we take recent figures more than 50 per cent. of them struck work. The next largest number of hands, viz., 134,000, are employed in the Tea industry which has a paid-up capital of nearly 7 crores of rupees. Mercantile offices, gudees and semi-official institutions, such as Corporations, Port Trusts, Banks, Insurance Companies, Posts and Telegraphs, come third, with over 120,000 clerks and assistants, who are more or less responsible for the administration of our great industries and public service and are *quasi*-workmen. Collieries employ nearly 49,000 hands; Railway Workshops, 30,000; Jute Presses, 25,000; Gun, Shell, Rifle and Munition Factories owned by Government, 21,000; Engineering Trades 45,000 of whom nearly 35,000 struck work, and the rest are employed in Printing Presses, Dock-Yards, Building Trades, Electrical Supply and Workshops, Brickfields, Rice Mills, Tramways, Gas Works, Taxis and Transport Trades, Chemical Industries and River and Ocean Navigation. These 750,000 hands employed from one end of this province, viz., the tea gardens in the north-east border to the Collieries in the south-west, and in the Factories in Calcutta and its suburbs receive something like a crore of rupees as

wages per month. Individual wages range from Rs. 9 a month, as drawn by a Tea Garden coolie, to an average of Rs. 35 a month, paid to carpenters, electricians and other skilled workers. Sir, Western industrialism and Western machinery, as introduced in India, has lured this vast body of men to industrial centres. They are mostly immigrants from the more or less distant country sides, who found agricultural occupation or even small handicrafts unprofitable. In no distant future they will have to undergo the miseries and misfortunes that will follow from Western methods of industrialism and capitalism. Before long the State will have to tackle problems of the un-employed, the tramp and the un-employable—of Workshops and Asylums. Sir, I maintain that this large body of workers needs full protection of the State, just as the system of landlordism created by British administration necessitated protection of tenants and raiyats by a whole series of tenancy legislations in the past, and so as the peasants are helped by the Co-operative Credit Societies Act. The protection of Indian labour is all the more necessary, as it is inarticulate and its economic position is miserably weak, whereas capital is strongly organised and fortified with monopoly and power, and is more than a match for the feeble strength of our unorganised labour as we find it to-day. The only protective Acts in force are the Indian Factories Act, 1911, and the old and incomplete Indian Mining Act, 1901, both half-hearted measures. It is essential that the State must intervene whole-heartedly, as every civilised State has done, including Japan in the Far East, to lend directly, or indirectly, a helping hand to labour, in encouraging the formation of and protection of unions and combination of workmen. Every civilised State has supervened to strengthen the hands of Labour Unions and to make their collective bargaining more and more effective. Notwithstanding Sir Thomas Holland's speech in the Legislative Assembly two days ago against State intervention in favour of labour, I maintain that the statutes of every civilised country go to show that Legislation such as Trade Union Acts, Employers' Liability Acts, the Minimum Wages Act, the 48 Hours Bill, the Industrial Housing Act and the Conciliation and Arbitration Act were found absolutely necessary.

Sir, the charter of British labour dates from the passing of the Trade Union Act, 1876, making combination of labour for all non-violent purposes lawful, followed by a series of measures, as I have just mentioned, affecting not merely wages, but hours of labour, sanitary conditions, precautions against accidents, compensation for injuries and a host of other things which all civilised countries have adopted and which I call the mile posts in the road of labour emancipation. A number of legal assaults were made on Trade Unionism, *e.g.*, the Taff Vale case in 1901, which decided that Trade Unions were liable for damage suffered by employers due to strikes by members of such unions. This, however, was reversed by the Trade Disputes Act, 1908, known as the Magna Charta of British labour, which declared that no civil action could lie against

Trade Union officials. The second assault on Trade Unionism, known as the Osborne Judgment, delivered in the House of Lords by three great Law Lords, contested the right of Trade Unions to spend money for political propaganda or payment of salaries to Labour members of Parliament. The Trade Union Act of 1913 nullified the effect of the Osborne Judgment, legalised picketing during strikes on an extensive scale, and the levy of fees for political purposes. The Whitley Councils were inaugurated in 1917 to discuss wages, technical education and legislation affecting industry, and their later developments are full of significance. The Unemployment Insurance Acts have also come into force. The National Industrial Council summoned by Mr. Lloyd George in 1919 decided in favour of a legal maximum of 8 hours a day work and the statutory Minimum Wages Commission. Latest development, viz., international labour-protection has been discussed in the League of Nations which repudiates the inhuman idea of labour to be treated as merchandise, and affirms its humanitarian principles, and directs legislation to that effect all over the civilised world. Its immediate effect was the Washington Conference which will be followed by the coming Conference at Geneva. I urge that a Committee be formed, of the composition suggested by Mr. Kerr, and accepted by me, to enquire into the causes of strikes within the last seven or eight months, and to get evidence from representatives of employers and employees affected by those strikes and also from experts.

The primary cause of these strikes, as we all know, is economic, viz., demand for increased wages. Some employers still persist in maintaining that wages must be regulated by demand and supply of labour or, in other words, that labour must be treated as merchandise, like so many head of cattle. They are not moved by convincing facts, as clear as daylight, that the increased cost of living as we are facing to-day must be met by grant of increased wages. The Hon'ble Mr. Kerr, in reply to my question, told us the other day, that the cost of feeding, clothing, etc., even a jail prisoner has gone up 60 per cent. since 1914, and the Director of Statistics has given figures to indicate that the increased cost of living is 70 per cent. since 1914. My own inquiry through the Employees' Association, with a membership of 5,000 clerks, shows that the cost has actually gone up 110 per cent., including new necessaries of life, which have raised our workers' standard of comfort and activities. Sir, the official figures, given in "Prices and Wages in India," published by the Department of Statistics, leave no doubt in our minds that the great bulk of our labouring population was not paid fair wages, and was consequently discontented. On page 180 of the Official Statistics of "Prices and Wages," table No. 22 shows that Tittagarh Paper Mills paid Rs. 7 to a woman worker, Rs. 17 to a bricklayer and Rs. 29 to a blacksmith per month in 1914. In 1918, when the cost of living was up by 50 per cent. a Tittagarh woman-worker got the same wages as in 1914, a bricklayer got Rs. 16, *i.e.*, Re. 1

less and a blacksmith got Rs. 28, *i.e.*, Re. 1 less. On page 182 of the same report we find that the British Navigation Company paid to a Calcutta Lascar (seaman) Rs. 17 a month in 1914 and has not increased a pice in 1918 The East Indian Railway Company paid Rs. 15 a month to carpenters in 1914, and raised it to Rs. 17·5 in 1918, viz., an increase of not even 15 per cent. The Department of Statistics has not published 1919 and 1920 figures of wages, but I will give you some figures and facts relating to coal mining as a result of my personal inquiry.

Official figures show (page 183 of "Prices and Wages") that a Miner in a Raniganj colliery received on an average Rs. 11·2 per month in 1914, and it was increased to Rs. 13·5 in 1918. He draws now according to the new scale of wages, that has come in force about two months ago, about Rs. 15 a month, based on 10 annas per tub of coal raised or about Re. 1 per ton of coal. In other words the Miners' wages increased from Rs. 11 to Rs. 15 since 1914 not even 50 per cent. I have purposely chosen the Coal industry, as the details of that industry are easily understood by many, and specially because coal is a vital and essential industry on which depend all other industries and the very fabric of our social comfort. The coal miners of Bengal, known as "malkata," work under almost brutal conditions. Underground work under the insufferable Indian heat and the general insanitation above ground, as well as excessive drinking and debauchery as a reaction against the fatigue and overstrain, almost make a beast of a miner. It is often contended that Indian labour is not efficient. I find, however, than an Indian miner is in no way inferior to his fellow-worker in Europe, and decidedly superior to a Japanese miner. An Indian miner, according to official statistics, raises on an average 118·8 tons of coal per year in Bengal, whereas a Jap raises only 96·0 tons per year, and a Belgian miner, noted for his mining skill, mines 130 tons a year. A British miner is credited with 226 tons per year. He has not only hereditary skill in mining, but has also the full advantage of the use of the best mining tools and implements known to the trade As for wages, a Belgian gets 10 times, a Japanese five times, and a British miner gets nearly 15 times the wages of an Indian miner per ton of coal raised. The poor Indian miner, with his rupee a ton as wages, gets looted first by the raising contractors; secondly, by the foodstuffs and cloth-dealers; and what is left goes to drink and debauchery, the only sedatives and palliatives he can think of under the present mining conditions. As regards sanitation official figures show that there were 3,511 cases of cholera and 1,863 deaths and 2,024 deaths from influenza in 1919 in Bengal Coal districts. Fatal accidents in Bengal Coal mines numbered 260 in 1919 the highest on record since 1910. The mine-owners are now getting Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 a ton and more for coal at pit's mouth, for which they pay only Re. 1 per ton to the poor miner. Why not improve his environment, remove his temptation, raise his standard of living, provide healthy amusements, start co-operative stores, friendly and

provident societies to encourage and invest the savings out of increased wages which should be granted? Why not adopt as a permanent solution of mining wages problem the sliding scale system; pay him according to the selling price of coal, say one-third according to the quality of coal raised. There are other causes besides economic at the bottom of a few of these strikes. The employers' personal supervision of labour in the good old days, when loyalty and sympathy were the key-notes of the mutual relation of employers and employers, is gone, and impersonal management by paid managers without human sympathy is being substituted. Two or three very recent strikes were due to this factor. In some cases refusal to reinstate a particular employee, dismissed by the management, has brought about strikes. I know of cases also when strikes were declared, as holidays for festivals and religious ceremonies were refused. Strikes have been declared to my knowledge because of the refusal on the part of the management to recognise newly-formed unions. Sir, I appeal to the hon'ble members here, who represent our great industries, not to discourage such unions, however defective they may be at their infancy. The late Sir William Mather, M.P., one of the leading manufacturers, said: "We, employers, owe more than we are inclined to admit to the improvements in our methods of manufacture, due to the firmness and independence of Trade Unions. The energy and pertinacity of Trade Unions have caused Acts of Parliament to be passed, which would not otherwise have been promoted by employers or politicians, all of which have tended to improve British Commerce." In fact these new unions and their spokesmen will help in future to avert strikes, which come about as quick as lightning. There is a good deal of talk about outside influence and pressure being brought into these strikes. They are, Sir, in my opinion, inevitable, as the vast majority of our workers are inarticulate and incompetent to bargain with employers. These outside men, some of whom are prompted by the best of motives and are men of great self-sacrifice, have given money and advice ungrudgingly during critical stages of strikes, as for example, during the Taxi, Gas and Tramway strikes. These men should be invited to make their suggestions to the proposed Committee. It is true that there are very exceptional cases, as in the collieries, where political motives prompted outside men to interfere, and the lightning strikes thus engineered failed miserably, and the strikers had to pay the penalty of being subdued by starvation. A piece of warning must be issued to Labour leaders and to those who are coquetting with labour, that there is a strong movement on foot for a union of employers, not only to combat strikes, but also to resort to lockouts, which will mean starvation to thousands. Anyway the question before us is—what are the likely methods to be adopted to avoid such strikes or expedite their termination when they do come about? Sir, so far settlement of strikes are concerned, I advocate some such legislation as for example the Conciliation and Arbitration

Act of British Columbia, which prohibits a combined stoppage of work in many industrial and agricultural undertakings, until conciliation has been attempted in the following manner:—

(1) Settlement by direct negotiation between the employer and a delegation of three workmen.

(2) If the attempt fails, recourse must be had to conciliation by a third person nominated by both parties and, when no agreement is arrived at, recourse must be had to arbitration, which is compulsory in undertakings such as transport (land and water), viz., tramways, railways, steam boats, etc; public lighting, water-supply, urban hygiene and sanitation.

In this no stoppage of works takes place, when the arbitration award is pending. Nevertheless, if the stoppage does take place, the Government is empowered to take over the management. The Act provides penalties for infringement of its provisions and for obstruction of conciliation and arbitration proceedings.

Sir, what will happen in Calcutta if one fine morning in summer you find your water-tap ceases to flow, or that the whole city is in darkness, as happened not long ago, or, as is threatened now, that our railways ceased to work because of this new spasm of industrial insurrection. It is no longer a question of what will happen any more. It has happened in Howrah and its neighbourhood. Terrorism of the worst kind has paralysed train services; thousands of daily passengers were at their wits ends; confusion and disorder ruled supreme; ignorant, unprotected, unguided and unorganised Indian labour ran amok, assisted by *budmashes*, and gave rather an uneasy time to Gurkhas and the minions of the law.

I maintain, Sir, if we had a machinery to deal with these people to induce them to come to conciliation and arbitration, these chaotic conditions, such as we find to-day, would not have appeared at all. Conciliation and arbitration may be distasteful to Capitalists in Bengal, but our labour, as has been amply demonstrated in the case of the taxi and tramways strikes, will make full use of it before downing their tools or creating lightning strikes. If these legislations may take a long time to materialise in the Imperial Assembly, let us have in the meantime district Wages and Conciliation Councils as, and if, the proposed committee decide. These are my observations which I commend to you and I thank you for giving me a patient hearing.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): In the present state of industrial unrest in Bengal, this resolution is probably one of the most important that has been brought before the Council so far. I have been in communication with the

mover of the resolution, and also with Mr. Watson-Smyth, because it seemed to me that it would be useless to have a committee of inquiry of this kind unless both employers and employees could be induced to join. Mr. Watson-Smyth has consulted the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, of which he is now the President, and he tells me that the Committee of the Chamber are in favour of an inquiry by a committee, so constituted as to include representatives of both employers and employees. His Excellency the Governor has welcomed this co-operation on the part of the Chamber of Commerce, and is prepared to appoint a committee to deal with this question, provided this resolution is passed in a slightly modified form. The form we suggest is: "This Council recommends to the Government that a committee be formed to inquire into the causes of the recent strikes of workmen in Bengal, and advise what remedial measures should be adopted."

It will be observed that we suggest cutting out of the resolution the detailed proposal regarding its constitution, because we do not consider it altogether suitable, and we may, and very probably shall, find that it will be advisable to ask one or two gentlemen who are not members of this Council, to join the committee.

In the second place, we have put in the words "in Bengal," because of course, we are only authorised to inquire into the Bengal position, and we have cut out the last few words, because experience in other countries suggests that the best way of allaying industrial unrest, is not for Government to intervene directly. The best work of Government in this matter has probably been to bring employers and employees, both parties, together, and to enable them to discuss their differences in a calm and friendly atmosphere.

Well, in view of the contemplated appointment of this committee, I do not propose to go into any details at present, or to discuss any controversial questions; I will only say that, as to the causes of recent strikes in Bengal, there has just been published in the first number of the Journal of Indian Labour, a very interesting article by Mr. Meek, the Director of Industries, on the strikes that have unfortunately occurred in this province during the last eight months. That information we shall, of course, be prepared to place before the committee in its fullest details as a basis for working.

As to the exact constitution of the committee, I shall have to take the orders of His Excellency the Governor, who has not yet returned from Dacca, but I may say that the sort of committee that is contemplated is a committee consisting of two members of this Council representing labour, two representatives of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and perhaps one or two other Indian gentlemen, together with an impartial Government officer as Chairman,

I hope that this committee may be able to unite in putting forward practical proposals for allaying the present state of industrial unrest, but, even if their conclusions are not unanimous, I have no doubt that the discussions will be extremely useful as bringing out the different points of view, and enabling differences of opinion to be clearly stated and understood by both parties. Government, as I have said, are prepared to accept the resolution in the form which I have read out.

Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: I accept the modification.

The PRESIDENT: The mover of the resolution asks for permission to amend his resolution. This permission may be given.

The discussion will now proceed on the motion as amended.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I welcome this resolution. It is advisable first, to undertake inquiries, and secondly, to decide upon measures to be taken by the committee of inquiry.

Two years ago this suggestion was made to the Bengal Legislative Council, but nothing was done. Of the several laws which prevail in Bengal, there is only one, section 492 of the Indian Penal Code, which may deal with such matters, but it has a limited scope, and it deals only with contract of service. The author of that Act did not anticipate strikes that have recently occurred. Then there is another Indian Act XIII of 1859, passed before the Indian Penal Code came into operation. It has also a limited scope. As the law stands, it is very difficult to meet the situation which arises almost every day. In 1870 the question arose in England, and we find several Acts were passed. I may mention the Act of 1875, which dealt with the prevention and protection of property. Now that Act was interpreted in a very curious way. Subsequently Lord Coleridge gave a wider interpretation of the several sections, but he legalised the strikes to some extent under the provisions of that Act. Whatever it may be, my view is that the committee will have to consider whether there should be a law protecting the workmen and their employers. Such a law is necessary for the good of the country. Anyone who was in a railway compartment two days ago will agree with me that action ought to be taken by Government at once. I was one of the passengers in that train, and I made up my mind to come to the Government and plead for some action in this direction, but it does not look well that at every stage Government interference should be asked. When there was the tramway strike questions were put in Council, and applications were made to Government to intervene. When there is a railway strike Government is asked to intervene. It is not necessary that at every strike Government interference should be asked: there should be one procedure, be

it is a procedure of arbitration or a procedure to be laid down by a Magistrate, or summary legislation. Let there be one definite procedure. We find that in this country there is no central authority; therefore, I consider that it is necessary that some such authority should be constituted.

There are associations which are recognised. There are also associations which are not recognised. Any body in the name of the public comes forward and says that he is a representative by mandate. But had there been a Trade Union here, as in England, the whole difficulty could be solved. But, Sir, these are matters which are to be considered hereafter. If this resolution is passed, great relief will be given to workmen. It will partially solve the bread problem. It is a problem concerning the wages of men who work in mills and in mines in the coal districts. There ought to be a conciliatory policy in this matter, and the problem can only be solved by taking vigorous steps in this connection. Leaving aside that question, if you, gentlemen of this Council, could stand in the position of the miners of the coal districts, I am sure you will welcome this resolution. They have no houses, and, when I put a question to the Council regarding the housing of the miners, that question was not satisfactorily answered. The Behar Government has taken up the matter and we find that they have arranged a good deal for the housing of the miners there. All these questions will come up for discussion before the Committee and the Committee, I am sure, will be in a position to advise what further steps are to be taken in this matter. I do, very gladly and whole-heartedly support the resolution, and I say once more, that there ought not to be any dissentient voice and the resolution be passed.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: As there has been no opposition to this resolution, I do not think much need be said about it. I will just say a word or two. There have, unfortunately, been many strikes lately, and one thing seems to strike me as rather peculiar that neither the employers nor the employees, in their natural anxiety to look after their own interests, have considered the case of the public at large. In a matter like this, I think the public have also something to say. During the recent taxi strike, we know what difficulty the public had to put up with—so much so that the Automobile Association had to hold a public meeting in the Town Hall to devise means to get rid of the strike. During the recent tramway strike, we also know, for more than four weeks, what great trouble the poor classes, the middle classes and others using the trams had to undergo, and nobody came to intervene. During the recent Lillooah strike, we know that the innocent passengers were put to great trouble and were molested in many cases. We know that at Kalighat, blood has been shed. It is a matter still under judicial enquiry, so I cannot say what I want to say about this business. But these strikes are proving a source of great trouble and annoyance to the

public, and I shall only suggest that in forming this committee, the Government will be good enough to see that gentlemen, having the confidence of the public, should also find place in this committee. With these few words, I beg to support this resolution.

Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: After the acceptance of the resolution by the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr and the pathetic speech of Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur, there is very little for anybody to speak on the subject. I only wish to congratulate the hon'ble member who has moved this resolution and to congratulate Government upon having accepted it so gracefully, because the time is ripe. I do not wish to act as the unseemly seer, but things are not well with us, and Government will do well, and we should do well, as soon as possible to try our best and pay more regard to the condition of the labourer, not from the point of view of the inconvenience, which these strikes cause to the public, but from the point of view of the labourers themselves and the disaster and misery they and theirs have to suffer in the assertion even of their just claims.

Mr. W. L. CAREY: I am very glad to support the amended resolution, and I am sure most large employers of labour would do the same, that a committee be appointed to see if means can be found to deal with labour unrest of all kinds. I think there is no large employer of labour, who has not given much thought to the subject. We would welcome any really workable measure, which would give us the assurance that the *just* demands of labour will be met, and that such strikes as are without cause will be shown to be so. As one who knows the conditions in the coal districts, I beg to say that these conditions are not such as have been represented. They might have been so at one time, but most, in fact all, large collieries have, on their own initiative, and working hand in hand with the various bodies and boards appointed by Government, spent large sums of money in housing, sanitation, in starting shops and making food arrangements, controlling drink, free water-supply, hospitals and medicines, and so on. These have made the conditions of labour generally far better. I do not say of course that they are yet absolutely all that they should be. These kinds of measures take a little time to work out. Public companies have to spend out of their reserve and other funds available, as they find they can year by year, without damaging the future prospects of their companies. But everything, that I think is humanly possible up to the present, has been done. I beg to support the amended resolution.

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: The condition of the workers, as proclaimed by Mr. Chaudhuri and Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur, is not so bad, as I know from my own personal experience. As one

connected intimately with the district of Burdwan, I had occasion to visit the place several times, and I have seen that the managers do take real interest in their labourers. There is a body called the Mines Board of Health, and since its inauguration the sanitary condition of the place has changed immensely for the better.

Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: Since the resolution has been accepted, I have got very little to say in reply, except that I would refer Mr. Carey to certain books—perhaps he has got them in his own office—the "Report on the production and consumption of Coal," as well as "Prices and Wages," issued by the Director of Statistics office. From these books it will be seen that the coal-miners are the worst paid among the industrial workers in Bengal. Mr. Carey says that the sanitary condition has been improved in the coal districts. It is true that the Mining Board of Health are doing their share of the work, but the miners are not represented in those Boards. I do not mean to say that the illiterate miners should be members of the Board, but what I mean is that persons, who take an interest in the miners, should represent them there, and it is high time that they are so represented. There is, for example, a Swami in Raniganj who used to belong to the Ramkrishna Mission and who has founded a Workmen's Association. He may be taken into confidence by colliery owners, especially as he has got no political motive. Mr. Carey has said that drink has been brought under control in the coal districts, but evidence does not prove it. As a matter of fact anybody, who can pay, can get drink. There is no question of restriction of any kind. Mr. Carey said that, as far as is humanly possible, all has been done. I am very doubtful about this. Of course something has been done, and the capitalists have done that because healthier labour means better income for them. But Sir, there is such a thing as the human factor in the labour question. I do not see why labourers should not be treated as human beings and not merely as so many head of cattle, because there is apparently a plentiful supply of them. I would ask the owners of collieries to fix their wages according to a definite standard. The sliding scale system has been accepted in iron and other trades in England. If the coal prices go up, then the labourer ought to be given something more. They may be paid in proportion to the prices of coal, but I cannot pass an opinion as to what scale should be adopted. When the prices of coal go up, you do not raise the labourers' wages, and you do not pay any attention to their condition, unless there is a strike, and it is only then that you realise that the wages have got to be raised. Sir, I am very glad that my resolution has been accepted.

The resolution was then put in the following form and agreed to: "This Council recommends to the Government that a committee be formed to inquire into the causes of recent strikes of workmen in Bengal and advise what remedial measures should be adopted."

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: "This Council recommends to tl Government that the Government of India be approached with a reque that in connection with the recommendation contained in the secon report of the Parliamentary Joint Committee regarding the peculiar fina cial difficulties of the Presidency of Bengal, effect be given to the recon mendation by an order of the Governor-General in Council declaring tl export duty on jute levied in Bengal to be a source of provincial revenu for Bengal from the financial year 1921-22."

It is a notorious fact that the finances of the country are in such helpless condition that we will not henceforth be able to meet our ordina expenses without borrowing or imposing fresh taxes upon the peopl This year we may draw from our reserves, *i.e.*, we shall have to dra more than 2 crores of rupees from our reserves or cash balance—by wha ever name we may call it—but the amount which will be left to ourselv will be only about Rs. 50 lakhs. This means that we will not henceforl be able to carry on our ordinary duties without incurring debts. It necessary that something should be done at once, so that we may not fa into the mire. We cannot moreover go on borrowing indefinitely, nor it fair to the people of this country that with the advent of the Reforn the people should be burdened with fresh taxation. The people a poor, and any additional taxation at this time would meet with absolu disapprobation of the public, and would be the cause of disconte among the people.

It was only the other day that I moved a resolution in this Counc for approaching the Government of India with the request th effect be given to the recommendation in the second report of the Pa liamentary Joint Committee, namely: "The Committee desire to ac their recognition of the peculiar financial difficulties of the Presiden of Bengal, which they accordingly commend to the special considerati of the Government of India." That resolution was accepted by Gover ment. I pointed out that the introduction of the Reforms has broug about a complete change in the financial relations between the Centr and the Provincial Governments. We have now been made independe in the matter of finance, but we shall not be able to spend or utilise o own money. The apportionment of revenue has been very unsatisfacto and out of all proportion to the contribution by the Presidency and i needs. It is, therefore, necessary that we should approach the Go ernment of India for a redistribution of the heads of revenue, at lea to allow us to utilise the amount which is purely a Bengal contributio I mean the export on jute. The tendency in the United States, Cana and some of the British Colonies is to mark off all indirect revenue central and all direct taxes as Provincial. But the allocation made by tl Government of India, or rather by the Parliamentary Joint Committee the Meston Committee, proceed on a different basis. It m

be said that the export duty on jute falls in the category of "customs," and therefore the income derived from it is legitimately the due of the Imperial Government. Jute is the product of Bengal and Bengal alone. The export duty on jute can be wholly provincialised. It is no doubt now levied as "customs," but it may be levied as excise duty. In my note on the report of the Meston Committee I pointed out that it was inequitable in practice, and wrong in principle, to select one or two particular commodities which were produced in one or two particular provinces only, and not generally throughout India and which have special advantages, and levy a tax on those commodities, not for the benefit of those particular provinces, but for India as a whole. This was a grievance sorely felt in Bengal, where the Government of India do not spend a single pice for the benefit of the jute growers, who, as a result of this tax, can only sell at a price less than what they would otherwise have got. It will appear that our deficit is more than 2 crores of rupees, and, even if the expenditure remains stationary, there will be at least this annual recurring deficit. We have no great hopes from "excise duties," for they are liable to decrease, and we have every reason to believe they will decrease gradually. We therefore require a permanent source of income, and that source should be in the strict sense of the term "provincial." The revenue as shown in the Budget estimates of 1919-20 from "Customs" or "Export duty" on jute was Rs. 239 lakhs, *i.e.*, a little over Rs. 2 crores, the amount which we require to make two ends meet. We do not want anything to live a luxurious life. We want this sum of Rs. 2 crores for our bare subsistence. I therefore move that this export duty on jute, which is a purely provincial income, should be given to us by the Government of India.

Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: I rise to make a few brief observations with regard to the resolution which has been so ably moved by Babu Surendra Nath Ray. Sir, I had no mind to intervene at this stage of the debate, particularly so, when the empty chairs before us indicate that the House is in a mood to break up. But, as the representative of a constituency, which is chiefly composed of poor people, I thought it was incumbent on me to say what they feel about this matter. So far as the Budget is concerned, I think very many people have actually been frightened at the enormous deficit. The Hon'ble Mr. Kerr has made a forcible speech to-day, and I find from the arguments in it that it is very difficult to defeat him, but I think all the same the impression is that, unless the Government of India come to our rescue, it would be absolutely impossible to get on. Sir, the Reforms Scheme is expected to give us popular government, and the idea is that, unless the Government of India come to our help, and unless the resolution which my friend Babu Surendra Nath Ray has moved is given effect to, that form of government would not be able to

do much good to the people. The financial condition of the country at the present moment is so grave, and the economic conditions under which our people are struggling for their very existence so unfavourable, that it is but natural that they should be frightened to see our public expenditure rising higher and higher every day by leaps and bounds. And I do not see any reason why the Government of India should not come to our help, and according to the terms of this resolution and also according to the recommendation of the Parliamentary Joint Committee, I do not see any reason why the Government of India should not declare the export duty on jute levied in Bengal to be a source of provincial revenue. I thought I should tell the Council what was the feeling of the population in the rural areas of Bengal, but I think I shall not be justified in taking up the time of the Council, and I wholeheartedly support the resolution so eloquently moved by Babu Surendra Nath Ray.

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: This is another effort on the part of Babu Surendra Nath Ray to improve our financial position, and it would be ungracious of me if I do not welcome his assistance. I would only say that we have hitherto looked on this matter from rather a different point of view or angle of vision. We have strongly urged upon the Government of India that our income is insufficient to meet our expenditure, and we have proved our proposition in great detail, but we have left it there. So long as the Government of India increase our resources in such a way as to produce equilibrium, it does not very much matter in what particular form assistance is given. However, there is admittedly a certain amount of appropriateness about giving us this jute export tax. It is levied on a product which is a monopoly of Bengal, and it so happens that just about what the tax at present produces is what we want to meet our deficit next year. On the other hand I do not know that the last consideration is altogether an advantage, because, as I am always saying, we are a very young Government and a very young Council, and we do not yet really know what are our permanent charges. As an instance, we do not yet know what our responsibilities are going to be with regard to the Calcutta University, and there are other questions still pending. So we are not in a position at present to say that a sum of Rs. two crores would make us comfortable or would be sufficient for our purposes. It would be a great mistake, therefore, for us to commit ourselves to any suggestion that if we got this jute tax we should be happy and would not want anything more. However, the proposal in the resolution if given effect to would improve our financial position very substantially, and, without going so far as to say that this transfer of the jute tax is the only method or even the best method of improving our financial position, I am prepared to accept the resolution on behalf of Government and to submit it to the Government of India for their consideration.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution, and as it has been already accepted by the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr, I would like to say one thing, and that is this. As Bengal is the only jute-producing province all over the world, and its produce is taken away by foreign countries, I think the jute tax should most appropriately be given to Bengal, especially when there is a large deficit and the province is in great need.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I am most thankful to the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr for having accepted this resolution. It was for some time past my intention to say that we should ask not only for this revenue from jute from the Government of India, for our needs are growing, and we may do with Rs. 2 crores next year, but we may require Rs. 4 crores the year after next.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Partition of Midnapore.

Babu SARAT CHANDRA JANAH: I beg leave of the House to withdraw the resolution standing in my name.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn. It was as follows: "This Council recommends to the Government that the partition of the district of Midnapore be stopped for good."

Residential allowances.

Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI: The motion that stands in my name and which I have been called upon to move, may be carried or lost. I do not care so much whether this is carried or lost, because I have got the satisfaction to see its effect upon some of the members. It has worked as a piece of litmus paper in a chemical laboratory. Most of the mufassal members do not like the idea that the travelling expenses that they are now getting should be discontinued. So I pray for leave to withdraw this resolution. Its effect would be to remove the sword of Damocles hanging over the heads of the members.

The motion was then by leave of the Council withdrawn. It was as follows: "This Council recommends to the Government that no residential allowances be paid to members of the Legislative Council and that no provision be made in the Budget for such payment."

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: As the original resolution has been withdrawn and it will be rather difficult to work out the suggestion, therefore, I beg to withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn. It was as follows: "This Council recommends to the Government that the members of the Legislative Council should be paid only their actual

expenses for their board, lodging and other out-of-pocket expenses when attending Council meetings at Calcutta.

New Roads and Road repairs.

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: "This Council recommends to the Government that the district boards and municipalities be recommended to make allotments separately in their Budgets under the heads of 'New Roads' and 'Road Repairs' according to the mileage of the different thanas and wards as the case may be."

Sir, I have already given notice of the said resolution, and the hon'ble members in this House have got it on their agenda paper, and I hope they have all considered the desirability of adopting such a resolution for the benefit of the general public. Let me first explain what I mean by the resolution. The prevailing system of local self-governing bodies in the muffasal such as district boards, local boards and municipalities is, when preparing their annual budget, to make allotments on the heads mentioned in the resolution, but in some cases the detailed estimates are prepared later on. Now, I would like to see that the whole amount under the heads of road repairs, etc., be divided accordingly in proportion to the mileage of respective thanas and wards. Take, for example, a municipality with an average income of Rs. 30,000 a year. It allots Rs. 3,000 for road repairs in the budget, but subsequently estimates are made of different parts of the road, which the authorities contemplate to repair. Of course the executives take a formal sanction of the Board. But the reasons for my moving the resolution are that no principle is followed in preparing such estimates, and as a result of this many roads are left without repairs for some time and years even, and gradually the roads become rotten and the public feel great inconvenience. In some cases we find that only the favourite roads and the roads through which high officials pass are maintained. Those who have gone to the interior of the mufassal in any district, have noticed the facts and the existing bad condition of the roads. Some roads look as though they were abandoned, and some are being encroached on by the cultivators and other people. The tax and cess payers pay their taxes, but they are not getting equal justice. Therefore, if this principle of distributing money according to the mileage of thanas and wards be followed, then no one can complain and the executives of the self-governing bodies will also be saved from any sort of adverse criticism. Some will say that there are Public Works Committees, District Engineers and Municipal Commissioners, who can fight for their grievances, but from the experiences which I have, I may fairly say that in most cases the executives of the mufassal self-governing boards have their own majority, and the poor members and commissioners are out-voted. Moreover in many places, though the district boards and municipalities have their non-official Chairmen, yet they require guidance from the Government on various considerations. I admit that it is beyond

ope to compel them, and on principle we should not, but we can
st to them any good idea. I admit and believe that the resolution,
pted by this House and the Government, will not have a binding
on the district boards and municipalities. Still I am sure it will
moral pressure on those boards, and at the same time it will give a
o the members of these boards how to divide their money on the
mentioned in the resolution. In cases of emergency and in the
e of any complaint, the authorities of the boards referred to are at
to act according to their pious wish. I urge for the proper utility
public money in a right way with a right principle. The Govern-
will be in no way doing wrong in its judgment in accepting the reso-
, and it is simply in the way of recommendation or suggestion.
ve we should do justice, if we follow the principle in our district
, and municipalities. The local boards, and other union commit-
ill naturally follow the same line, and then the money may be evenly
uted all over the districts. I hope the Hon'ble Minister in charge
department, and the House will consider the desirability of accept-
e resolution. With these words I beg to move the resolution.

ja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: Having an idea of the conditions
rural area as well as of the system of preparation of the District
Budget, as the Chairman of a district board, I regret that I
but oppose the resolution in its present form, so far as it relates to
t boards. In the Boards' Budgets, allotments for "New Roads"
Road Repairs" are separately shown, not according to the mileage
different thanas, as proposed in the resolution, but according to the
of the district as a whole. I do not see how distribution of road
ents can be made according to the thana mileage. For, as regards
Roads," I think allotments should be made not according to the
ge, but rather according to the inverse proportion of the mileage,
to say, the thana which has a greater mileage of roads should have
er number of new communications. As for repairs, the cost of
s to metalled roads is far greater than that of unmetalled ones. One
has a greater number of metalled roads than another, while the width
al required also varies in accordance with the traffic on each road.
umber of bridges and culverts on roads in the different thanas is
uite different from each other. In the above circumstances the
ge of roads in a thana cannot be taken as a criterion for allotting
Moreover, in my opinion the district, and not a thana, should be
as a unit, and funds allotted according to the necessities of the
t as a whole.

bu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: I rise to oppose this motion.
experience both of district boards and municipalities, and I do
now why my learned friend has brought forward this motion before
ouncil. The only point raised by him is that there may be a

principle of equal proportion to be followed by the municipalities. I do not know what practical experience he has got of municipalities. Suppose there are municipalities in which there are certain roads and places where practically there is no population, I fail to understand how the principle can be applied there. If this resolution is accepted, then this would mean interference by Government with district boards and municipalities. I am extremely sorry to see that in these days of self-government a motion like this should have been brought forward before the Council and I appeal to my friend to withdraw his motion before the Hon'ble Minister speaks.

With these few words I oppose the motion.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: It appears to me that the executive everywhere, whether in small village unions or in district boards or municipalites, cannot bear any criticism of their action. I do not quite see any harm in the resolution of my friend. I do not find in the resolution that any suggestion has been made that the allotments should be made equally for all villages or thanas without consideration of other elements which should be considered. I have found from my practical experience, and I am ready to bear out my learned mover, that certain localities always get favoured treatment, while certain other localities are always neglected. As I interpret the resolution, the mover's intention is to put a stop to that sort of thing by the executive on the spot. We have been losing our belief and confidence in the theory of the man on the spot, and this resolution is an illustration thereof. It does not really hamper the work. It only lays down that in making allotments the district boards and municipalities should show what amount of money they are going to devote to a particular locality in order to find out whether the work is being properly done or not. I think that is the only thing which the resolution aims at. I therefore support the resolution.

Maulvi SHAH MUHAMMAD CHAUDHURI: Generally new roads and road repairs are shown in the Budget, but it is not possible to show separately each thana according to the necessity of the roads. The district boards generally open roads where there is a large need for communication, and it is not possible for them to repair or open roads according to the mileage of the different thanas. There may be thanas, where it is not necessary to open any new road. For these reasons I oppose the resolution.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: While I fully sympathise with the mover of this resolution, I am sorry that I cannot support this resolution. In the first place it appears to me that this resolution is quite unnecessary. Union boards are going to be formed in several parts of the district and as the district boards will have to supervise their work, this resolution is quite unnecessary. In

the second place of course equality of distribution is justice no doubt, but benevolence is higher justice, and the people, who are on the spot, are the best judges as to which place requires special attention, and what sort of grant is to be made. Moreover, the conditions throughout the districts are not similar, as, for instance, in the district of Pabna, the Sirajgunj subdivision goes under water during the rains and it requires special treatment, while the Sadar subdivision is on a higher land and it requires quite a different treatment. So no hard and fast rule can be laid down that allotments should be made according to the mileage of each thana. I submit that almost all the district boards of Bengal have got non official chairmen, and formerly when the district magistrates were at the helm, the members could not venture to interfere much with the work of the Chairmen. But now that there are non-official chairmen, the members are bold enough to press their respective claims, and I am sure in a year or two all the members will try to readjust the district board funds according to the requirements of the locality. In the third place, this resolution smacks of a little distrust of the ability and the honesty of the chairmen to do good to their respective districts. So I would ask the mover to withdraw this resolution and to bring it forward after two or three years, if he finds that matters do not adjust themselves according to local circumstances.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I extremely regret that this resolution has been brought forward before the Council. The learned mover asks for a mandate in the shape of a recommendation to intertere with the judgment of the municipal commissioners and members of the district boards. I request him to withdraw it. I do not think that any hard and fast rule should be laid down as to the manner in which allotments should be made in the Budget, as that would only mean an interference with the action of municipal commissioners and members of district boards. Sir, I am very sorry that such a resolution has been brought forward and I beg to oppose it.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ delivered his speech in Bengali.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): I came to this Council with quite an open mind resolved to follow the trend of the debate and to be guided by the sense of the Council. I have not in the slightest degree changed my mind in that respect. I have carefully followed the course of the debate, and what do I find? Speaker after speaker has spoken on this resolution and, with one exception, they have condemned it. Therefore I take it that it is the sense of this Chamber that this resolution should be dropped. Now, Sir, speaking from my own personal experience—and in this connection I may say that I have been the Chairman of a municipality for over 33 years—I think that while we all deprecate anything approaching favour-tism, while we are all anxious

that the construction and repairs of roads should not receive preferential treatment, it seems to me that this is not the remedy for the evil which my friend has referred to. The fact of the matter is—whether a road is to be repaired or not, whether new roads are constructed or not, these are matters which ought to be left to the decision of the local bodies concerned and should be determined by considerations with which only the local bodies can be acquainted. I think that this is the principle which should guide local bodies and which I take it does guide them in this matter. Therefore, having regard to all these circumstances, my advice to my friend is to withdraw this motion, and I hope he will do so. It is quite clear that the House is against the adoption of his resolution. May I take it that he withdraws the motion? If he does not, then, on behalf of Government, I must oppose the motion.

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: After hearing the various speakers and the suggestion of the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned to Monday, the 14th March, 1921, at 3 P.M., at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report of the First Session.)

VOLUME I—5.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Monday, the 14th March, 1921, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 109 nominated and elected members.

Oaths.

The following members made an affirmation of their allegiance to the Crown:—

RAI SAHIB PANCHANAN BARMA.

BABU BHABENDRA CHANDRA RAY.

MUNSHI AYUB ALI.

MUNSHI AMIR ALI.

President's Speech.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): I have received a letter from His Excellency the Governor which I wish to place before you. His Excellency writes:—

"I desire to call the attention of the Council to paragraph 10 of Part V of the Report of the Joint Select Committee of the two Houses of Parliament appointed to consider the Government of India Bill, which runs as follows:—

'The Committee think that it may often greatly assist the political education of India if Standing Committees of the legislative bodies are attached to certain departments of Government, but they only express this opinion on the undestanding that

the appointment of such committees, their composition, and the regulations whith govern their procedure, shall be matters wholly and exclusively within the discretion of the Governor General or of the Governor as the case may be.'

In accordance with the opinion therein expressed I have decided that it is desirable that such committees should be formed and it is my intention therefore that Standing Committees to advise the Member or Minister in charge upon questions of policy and upon such other matters in connection with the administration of his Department as he may desire to submit to them shall be attached to the following departments:—

1. Police.
2. Judicial and Jails.
3. Local Self-Government.
4. Medical and Public Health.
5. Education.
6. Commerce and Marine.
7. Public Works (Roads and Buildings).
8. Irrigation.
9. Agriculture (including Civil Veterinary, Fisheries and co-operative Credit).
10. Excise.
11. Land Revenue.

I propose that the Committees should consist of the Hon'ble Member or the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department as Chairman, the Head of the Department and four non-official members of the Legislative Council with the Departmental Secretary acting as Secretary. In order that I may be in possession of the views of the Legislative Council when making appointments to the Committees, I would invite you to arrange for the selection of names (for submission to me) by all non-official members of the Council by means of the single transferable vote. And since the main object of the Joint Select Committee in recommending the formation of such Committees was to provide for the wide diffusion of a knowledge of the work of administration, I would advise that no member should be selected to serve on more than one committee, and, in any case, would ask that no name be submitted to me for appointment to more than two such committees. For the same reason I propose that the Committees should be appointed annually, it being open to members to stand for re-election at the end of the year should they desire to do so. I shall be glad to receive from you, in due course, the names of the non-official members selected for nomination to the various committees."

In accordance with this letter I propose to fix a date for the election of members in order that the names may be submitted to His Excellency the Governor. I will give you notice in due time.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Transfer of thana Ramnagar from Midnapore to Balasore.

***I. Babu SARAT CHANDRA JANAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to say whether it is in the contemplation of the Government to transfer the thana of Ramnagar from the district of Midnapore to that of Balasore?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware of the strong public feeling against the said proposal?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the people of Ramnagar thana use the Bengali language in all their ordinary business and that it would be a punishment to them if they are placed under Bihar and Orissa where the Court language is Uriya?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): (*a*) In connection with a resolution moved in the Imperial Legislative Council on the 20th February, 1920, on the subject of the amalgamation of the Uriya-speaking tracts under one administration, it was decided to make a full investigation of the facts and to prepare such materials as might be useful in arriving at a just decision in the matter. Accordingly the District Magistrate of Midnapore has been instructed to investigate and report the facts in thana Ramnagar and to ascertain the wishes of the people affected by the proposal, as a proportion of the inhabitants of thana Ramnagar is said to be Uriya-speaking. The Government of Bengal has not yet formed any opinion on the matter.

(*b*) A memorial has been received from the inhabitants and land-holders of thana Ramnagar objecting to its transfer from Bengal, and it is under consideration.

(*c*) The facts are under examination, and Government will express its views after considering all the available information.

Ex-soldiers of the Bengali Regiment.

***II. Babu FANINDRALAL DE:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department aware that a large number of the ex-soldiers of the Bengali Regiment with educational qualifications are out of employment at present?

(*b*) If so, what preference has the Government decided to give them, in view of the services rendered by them in the cause of the Empire, over other candidates for appointments in the various Government Departments?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): Attention is invited to the reply given to question 8 (unstarred) at the meeting of Council of the 28th February, 1921.

Calcutta and Bengal constabularies and recruitment of Bengalis thereto.

*** III. Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state the total number of constables both in Calcutta and in the Bengal police, and the number of Bengali constables among them?

(*b*) What steps, if any, did the Government take, since my questions in this respect in the Old Council in 1917, to recruit more Bengalis as constables in this province?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether it is the intention of Government to strengthen the Calcutta and the Bengal constabulary by recruiting Bengalis and, if so, are they considering the desirability of publishing their intention in the *Calcutta* and the *Police Gazettes* and of advertising the same in the local English and Bengali newspapers?

(*d*) Did the Government issue instructions to District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police to recruit Bengalis as constables?

(*e*) If so, with what result?

(*f*) Are the Government willing to take the help of non-official volunteers for the purpose of such recruitment?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) The total number of constables in the Calcutta police is 3,923, of whom 79 are Bengalis; the total number in the Bengal police is 19,061, of whom 8,751 are Bengalis.

(*b*) The number of Bengalis enlisted in the Bengal police as constables since 1917 is as follows:—

Year.	Number.	Percentage of Bengalis to total recruits.
1917	... 1,608	53
1918	... 1,847	63
1919	... 2,030	51·3
1920	... 1,866	69

The standard of chest measurement in the case of Bengalis was reduced in 1918 with a view to secure more recruits for the Bengal police. In 1919 a deputy superintendent of police with a special staff was placed on special duty to recruit Bengalis. In 9 months he succeeded in enlisting only 447 Bengalis, nearly one-fifth of whom deserted soon after, as they found the rate of pay and the nature of the work not sufficiently attractive.

As regards the Calcutta police a small party was sent out by the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, in 1917 to several Bengal districts to recruit suitable Bengalis but met with no success.

(*c*) It is the declared policy of Government to recruit more Bengalis as constables both in the Calcutta and the Bengal police, and the progress made is noted every year in the annual reports and reviewed in the Government resolutions published in the *Calcutta Gazette*. No further intimation of Government's intention appears to be necessary.

(*d*) District Magistrates are not concerned with the recruitment of constables.

Superintendents of Police have instructions from the Inspector-General to carry out the Government policy, and to continue their efforts to enlist Bengali recruits by making widely known the rates of pay and the conditions of service. This is done through thana officers and other local agencies.

(*e*) As a result the percentage of Bengali recruits in the Bengal police has risen from 53 in 1917, to 69 in 1920. The low pay offered has hitherto been one of the main obstacles to the recruitment of a larger number of Bengalis and in Calcutta the experience has been that Bengalis do not care for the work of a city police constable.

(*f*) Since the recent revision of pay Bengalis are offering themselves in larger numbers for the Bengal police, and almost all the vacancies have been filled, but private persons can do useful public service by bringing employment in the police force to the notice of likely recruit constables.

Additional District Magistrates.

*** IV. Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the work of District Magistrates has been materially diminished by their being relieved of the work of the Chairmanship of District Boards?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of abolishing the post of Additional District Magistrates in the districts where there are now such appointments?

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): (*a*) Obviously their work has been reduced by the extent of their direct duties as Chairman; indirect duties in connection with District Boards will still remain.

(*b*) In the districts where there are now Additional District Magistrates the work is still very heavy. Two of these districts are at present being partitioned, and the Bengal District Administration Committee was of opinion that similar relief is required in two more districts. Government do not consider it possible to abolish any of the posts of Additional Magistrate at present.

Number of Primary, Middle Vernacular, Middle English, and Secondary High Schools in Bengal.

*** V. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state the total number of—

(*a*) Primary;
(*b*) Middle Vernacular;
(*c*) Middle English; and
(*d*) Secondary High Schools in Bengal;

and also the total number of schools under each variety maintained—

(*1*) by Government,
(*2*) by local bodies,
(*3*) by grants-in-aid, and
(*4*) by private effort?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. V.

—	Number of schools in 1919-20—				Total.
	Managed by Government.	Managed by Local or Municipal Boards.	Aided by Government or Local Funds or Municipal Boards.	Unaided.	
Primary Schools ...	182	2,920	37,526	5,612	46,240
Middle Vernacular Schools	1	36	231	20	288
Middle English Schools ...	8	51	952	598	1,609
High Schools ...	47	3	312	541	903

Pasture lands for bovine cattle.

*** VI. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to say whether there are any arrangements for the setting apart of pasture lands in Bengal?

(*b*) If not, are the Government considering the advisability of introducing the system?

(*c*) If the Government have taken steps, what have they done so far as bovine cattle are concerned, and how long would it take to complete the whole scheme?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The member is referred to the answer to unstarred question No. 4 (*c*) (*i*) asked by Babu Amulya Dhone Addy at the Council meeting held on the 7th February last and to Sir John Cumming's speech referred to therein.

Representation of Government Khas Mahal and other estates on the Jalpaiguri District Board.

***VII.** (*a*) **Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the District Board of Jalpaiguri there are eight non-official and one official members representing the Government Khas Mahal which pays cesses amounting to Rs 76,140 and only one member representing the estate of the Maharaja of Cooch Behar in Jalpaiguri district which pays cesses amounting to Rs. 57 175, and only one member representing the Baikunthapur Estate which pays cesses amounting to Rs. 32,000 and if at any previous time there was no member at all representing the Baikunthapur Estate?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state on what principle nominations are made in the District Board of Jalpaiguri and, if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative or the figures laid down there are approximately correct, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what the reasons of this disparity are?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of either introducing the elective system or of directing nominations to be so made in the future as will ensure proportionate representation of the said three estates?

SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (Mr. L. S. S. O'Malley): (*a*) and (*b*) The road and public works cesses paid by the various estates in Jalpaiguri are approximately as follows:—

	Rs.
Tenants of the Government Khas Mahals other than tea estates	60,000
Tea estates	62,000
Estates of the Maharaja of Cooch Behar ...	64,000
Baikunthapur estate	38,000

Government also pays 1½ per cent. of its Khas Mahal collections to the District Board for the improvement of roads within the Khas Mahal area This comes to about Rs. 10,000 a year.

The District Board of Jalpaiguri consists of 16 members, viz., 14 nominated and 2 elected by the Alipur Duars Local Board. Of the 14 nominated members five (viz., the Senior Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner, the Subdivisional Officer, Alipur Duars, the Superintendent of

Police, the Deputy Inspector of Schools and the Civil Surgeon) are officials appointed to look to the interests of the districts as a whole, three represent the European tea industry, three represent partly Indian tea industry and partly other interests extending over the whole district and the remaining three may be regarded as representing respectively the interests of the Bengal Duars Railway, the Cooch Behar estates and the Baikunthapur estate. No members have been nominated to represent Khas Mahal interests outside the tea industry.

With reference to the portion of the question asking whether at one time there was no representative of the Baikunthapur estate it appears that Mr. Lydiard, who was manager of the estate, was a nominated member of the Board. He ceased to be manager during his membership of the Board; and was removed from the Board as he absented himself from six consecutive meetings. The proprietor of the estate was then asked whether he was willing to serve in his place but sent no reply, and the Deputy Conservator of Forests was appointed for the remaining period of the Board's term of office. On the reconstitution of the Board a representative of the estate was appointed, and there has been a representative since then.

(*c*) The establishment of a Local Board in the Sadar subdivision is a necessary preliminary to the introduction of the elective system in the District Board. As stated in their address presented to His Excellency on the 8th February last the District Board are not in favour of this; but are anxious to have Local Boards in areas smaller than a subdivision. This would require an amendment of section 6 of the Local Self-Government Act. Proposals for amending this section have been referred to the District Boards for opinion. Government do not consider it desirable that nomination should be made so as to ensure proportionate representation of different estates.

Tramway strike.

***VIII. Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state the date from which the tram-cars have ceased to run in Calcutta?

(*b*) When did the situation attract the notice of Government?

(*c*) What steps, if any, have the Government taken to see to resumption of the running of the cars?

(*d*) When did the Government first move in the matter?

(*e*) Is the subject of "tramways" one of the transferred subjects?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table the orders issued by Government in connection with the strike of the employees of the Tramways Company?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): (*a*) The majority of the tram-cars in Calcutta

ceased to run on the 27th January. The full service was resumed on the 24th February.

(*b*) Government watched the situation carefully from the beginning of the strike.

(*c*) and (*d*) The Calcutta Corporation, whohave a statutory agreement with the Tramways Company, first endeavoured to bring about a settlement, and when they failed they passed a resolution on the 18th February in which they asked Government to appoint a committee of inquiry or take such action as they might deem fit to terminate the existing deadlock and prevent such deadlocks in the future.

Government, on the 19th February, entered into communication with the Tramways Company and the representatives of the strikers, and the strike was finally settled on the 23rd February.

(*e*) No orders were issued by Government. For an account of the negotiations between Government, the Tramways Company and the strikers, the member is referred to the statement made in this Council on the 23rd February and to the *communiqué* issued on the same day The Tramways Company and the strikers having failed to come to an agreement regarding the points at issue, a committee has now been appointed to deal with the matter.

(*f*) The subject of "tramways within Municipal areas" is dealt with in the Public Works Department which is a transferred department, but the tramway strike comes under the heading of 'settlement of labour disputes' appertaining to the Commerce Department, which is a reserved department.

Tramway strike.

*** IX. Babu FANINDRALAL DE:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce aware of the recent strike of the drivers and conductors of the Calcutta Tramways Company, Limited, and the consequent dislocation of traffic?

(*b*) What action have the Government taken or what action are they going to take in this matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: (*a*) and (*b*) The member is referred to the answer to starred question No. VIII.

Drinking water supply in the rural areas of Hooghly and Howrah.

*** X. Babu FANINDRALAL DE:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the number of new tanks excavated and old ones restored by the District Boards of Hooghly and Howrah for improvement of drinking

water supply in the rural areas and specially in the subdivision of Arambagh during the last three years?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. X, showing the the number of tanks excavated and re-excavated by the District Boards of Hooghly and Howrah for improvement of drinking water-supply in rural areas during the last three years.

Year	Number of tanks excavated	Number of tanks re-excavated
HOOGHLY DISTRICT—		
Arambagh subdivision—		
1917-18	Nil	2
1918-19	Nil	1
1919-20	Nil	Nil
Sadar and Serampore subdivisions—		
1917-18	Nil	1
1918-19	Nil	1
1919-20	Nil	1*
Total ...		6
HOWRAH DISTRICT—		
1917-18	4	Nil
1918-19	2	Nil
1919-20	4	1
Total ...	10	1

* Work was in progress during the year 1919-20 and completed in the year 1920-21

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Amount sanctioned for Bankura famine.

I. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to say what was the amount sanctioned in relieving the distress caused by famine in the district of Bankura in 1919, and what was the amount spent in doing so?

(*b*) What were the amounts spent under the following heads:—

(*i*) in doles;

(*ii*) in relief works such as construction and repair of roads;

(*iii*) in relief works such as excavation and re-excavation of tanks and wells?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) The total sum sanctioned by Government to meet the expenditure in connection with the famine relief operations in the district of Bankura in 1919 was Rs. 4,39,616 and the sum actually spent amounted to Rs. 4,37,109.

(*b*) The amounts spent under the heads are shown below:—

(*i*) in doles, Rs. 1,28,244;

(*ii*) in relief works, such as construction of, and repairs to, roads, Rs. 2,09,180;

(*iii*) in relief works, such as excavation and re-excavation of tanks and wells, Rs. 66,317.

Subordinate Educational Service.

2. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether the committee appointed for the reorganisation of the Subordinate Educational Service have submitted their report?

(*b*) If so, what are their chief recommendations?

(*c*) Have the recommendations been accepted by the Government?

(*d*) If so, when do the Government propose to give effect to them?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) The Government of Bengal are not yet in a position to make any statement.

Allotment for constructing hostels for proposed college at Feni.

3. Munshi JAFAR AHMED: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that the District Board of Noakhali has sanctioned Rs. 50,000 for the construction of hostels for the proposed college at Feni?

(*b*) What is the income of the District Board from the different cesses?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the work of construction of roads, etc., in the district will suffer if so much money is spent for the college hostels only?

(*d*) Is it not a fact that in the current year only nominal amounts have been sanctioned for the repair of roads, excavation of tanks, irrigation of canals, etc., as compared with previous years?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The income of the District Board from Road and Public Works Cesses during 1920-21 is Rs. 2,26,236.

(*c*) The Chairman of the District Board reports:—

"The grant will be paid in three years—

			Rs.
1920-21	...	...	10,000
1921-22	...	...	30,000
1922-23	...	...	10,000

The amount alloted for this year (1920-21) has been paid out of the surplus of the preceding year. There is no large project for construction of roads, etc., for the year 1921-22. So the sum of Rs. 30,000 to be paid in 1921-22 can be paid without any detriment to the work of construction of roads, etc., for which a sum of Rs. 83,354 has been allotted. This amount was considered sufficient for that year by the members present at the last Budget meeting held on the 20th December, 1920. The Budget has been approved by the Commissioner. The sum of Rs. 10,000 to be paid in 1922-23 would be easily met even from the savings of that year."

(*d*) No. A statement showing the estimated expenditure for the current year, as compared with the actual expenditure under the different heads during the previous two years, is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to question No. 3 (unstarred) showing Budget Estimates on Civil Works in 1920-21 and actual expenditure incurred in 1918-19 and 1919-20.

	Civil Building		Communication.		Water-supply.		Drainage		Total.
	Original.	Repair	Original.	Repair	Original	Repair.	Original	Repair.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.
Provision made in the Budget estimates for 1920-21.	...	5,425	55,422	60,472	10,700	2,200	14,000	1,900	1,50,119
Actual expenditure incurred in 1919-20	6,069	5,095	56,853	56,969	18,717	2,651	18,141	611	1,65,136
Actual expenditure incurred in 1918-19.	330	*293	69,496	53,070	24,246	1,545	26,351	640	1,75,974

* The repair charge of Board Lower Primary Schools was not included in Civil Building Repair in 1918-19 as it is done from 1919-20.

Allowances to officers of the subordinate and lower subordinate educational services.

4. Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED: (*1*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) why no substantial allowance has been granted to the officers of the subordinate educational service and the lower subordinate educational service as yet on account of high prices of food-stuffs; and

(*b*) whether it is the intention of the Government to give some temporary allowance to those officers till the re-organization scheme of the said services is given effect to?

(*2*) If the answer to clause (*b*) is in the affirmative, when and from what date and what allowance do the Government propose to give?

(*3*) If the answer is in the negative, when and from what date is the said scheme likely to be given effect to?

(*4*) At what stage is the scheme now standing and what steps are being taken to expedite the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*1*) (*a*) The question of the revision of the pay of the subordinate and lower subordinate educational services has been taken up by Government. A committee was appointed in Government Resolution No. 872 T.—Edn., dated the 9th October, 1920, to examine and report upon the present pay and prospects of officers of these services and to recommend such changes of pay as might be considered desirable.

(*b*) The report of the committee has been submitted to Government and is now under consideration. The committee's report includes a recommendation to the effect that if there is any delay in putting into operation their main recommendations, a temporary allowance should be granted in compensation. Government propose to act upon this recommendation in the event stated.

(*2*) and (*3*) In the circumstances stated in the preceding answers, Government are not in a position to give the detailed information required.

(*4*) Endeavours are being made to expedite the issue of orders on the proposals of the committee.

Number of collegiate students.

5. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to make a statement showing for the last quinquennial period the number of aided and unaided colleges together with the total numbers of students on the rolls of these institutions?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: A statement is laid upon the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 5.

YEAR.	Number of aided colleges.	Number of unaided colleges.	Total number of aided and unaided colleges.	Number of students in aided colleges.	Number of students in unaided colleges.	Total number of students in aided and unaided colleges together.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1915-16 ...	15	13	28	5,681	8,311	13,992
1916-17 ...	15	15	30	5,987	9,186	15,173
1917-18 ...	16	15	31	6,666	10,564	17,230
1918-19 ...	15	17	32	6,753	11,144	17,897
1919-20 ...	15	17	32	7,280	11,523	18,803

Periodical surveys and reports of internal water-ways.

6. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) With reference to the answer given to unstarred question No. 29 at the meeting of the 21st February, 1921, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether periodical surveys are made and reports are called for by his Department on the conditions of such internal water-ways as the "Lohajang"?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the last report on the Lohajang?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) No.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Scarcity of good drinking water in the Vishnupur subdivision in Bankura.

7. Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, are being taken to clean the village tanks in the subdivision of Vishnupur?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that great distress prevails in the subdivision of Vishnupur by reason of the scarcity of good drinking water, and, if so, what steps are being taken to remove the want?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) No programme has been prepared for cleaning the village tanks in the subdivision as the District Board have no power to deal with private tanks. The practice followed is that when the Sanitary Inspector in the course

of his tours in the interior of the district finds any tank which is insanitary, he reports the fact to the Chairman of the District Board, who issues a notice on the owner to clean the tank by a specified date. In most cases the notices are obeyed and the tanks are cleaned, but occasionally there have been cases in which the owners failed to comply with the requisition. In such cases the District Board could not take further action as the law did not authorize them to take any.

(*b*) There is scarcity of good drinking water in parts of the Vishnupur subdivision, and the Bankura District Board have been trying to remove it gradually by excavating wells every year, so far as their limited resources would permit. The District Board propose to improve the water supply of the district further by taking a loan from Government.

Improving the condition of the officers of the Registration Department.

8. Babu FANINDRALAL DE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that at the time of the introduction of the Registration Act, the Hon'ble the Member in charge said that the Registration Department would not be regarded as a revenue department and the receipts of the department would be utilised for improving the department?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge be pleased to state how the big surplus of the last year was utilised and what portion of the current year's surplus they intend to utilise for improving the condition of the officers of the department?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) From the official abstract of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council of the Governor-General of India, held on the 24th March, 1871, it appears that the views mentioned in the question were expressed by Mr. F. S. Chapman, who added that it would be satisfactory for him to learn that his opinions were in accordance with those of the Government of India. Mr. Ellis also stated that he thought that it was not proper that registration fees should be regulated so as to form a source of revenue. In reply, Sir Richard Temple stated: "If it was merely meant that there was no desire to make a revenue, then he thought the Members of the Government of India would be able to express their entire concurrence. Of course, it was known that the scale of fees was fixed with a view to recover the cost of registration. If, after fulfilment of the requirements of the law and the needs of registration, there should remain a surplus, it would then be a question for the Government of India to consider whether the fees for registration should not be slightly reduced, or some further expansion of the system be made. If that was the view taken by the Hon'ble Members who had spoken, he would express his entire concurrence in their remarks. But to do more would be impossible under the existing system of accounts; we could

not devote any branch of revenue for any particular purpose. Ever source of income was entered gross, both on the receipt side and o the expenditure side; and it would be impossible to deal differently wit any particular branch of the revenue."

(*b*) In view of the reply given to clause (*a*) this question does no arise.

Public Works cesses from the subdivisions of the Hooghly district.

9. Babu FANINDRALAL DE: Will the Hon'ble the Minister i charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to stat the amount of Public Works cesses annually realised and credited to th District Board of Hooghly from the subdivisions of Arambagh, Seram pore and the Sadar subdivision of the district of Hooghly during the las three years?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: Figures show ing the amounts of Public Works cesses annually realized and credited t the District Board of Hooghly from the subdivisions mentioned in th question are not available.

Pay of Sub-Registrars.

10. Babu FANINDRALAL DE: (*a*) Has the Hon'ble the Ministe in charge of the Education Department received a memorial from th Sub-Registrars for increment of salary and the introduction of a time scale of increment?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state as to whe the decisions of Government on it will be announced and from what dat they intend to sanction increments, if at all?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that the reasons for granting increment of salaries with retrospective effect in the higher services exist also here?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative

(*b*) The question of improving the pay and prospects of Sub-Regis trars is under consideration, and Government are not at present prepare to make any statement of their intentions.

(*c*) The question of giving retrospective sanction to a revision of pa will be considered in connection with the financial position of Govern ment.

Creation of a new subdivision at Sandwip.

11. Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble th Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whethe it is in the contemplation of the Government to open a subdivision at Sand wip Island comprising the same and other sister islands within the juris diction of the district of Noakhali?

(*b*) If so, how far has the scheme, if any, proceeded, and ha e any steps been taken in that direction till now?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Private and aided colleges.

12. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to say what were the total numbers of students on the rolls of private colleges in each of the last 10 years?

(*b*) What ratio of the cost of education of a pupil in an aided college did the Government bear during each of the last 10 years?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 12.

1	2	3	4	5
Year.	Number of students in aided colleges	Number of students in unaided colleges	Total number of students in private colleges (aided and unaided).	Proportionate cost to Government for educating a pupil in an aided college.
				Rs.
1910-11 ...	2,641	4,393	7,034*	[illegible]
1911-12 ...	3,335	5,196	8,531	[illegible]
1912-13 ...	3,987	6,206	10,193	[illegible]
1913-14 ...	4,854	6,876	11,730	[illegible]
1914-15 ...	5,312	7,485	12,797	[illegible]
1915-16 ...	5,681	8,311	13,992	[illegible]
1916-17 ...	5,987	9,186	15,173	[illegible]
1917-18 ...	6,666	10,564	17,230	[illegible]
1918-19 ...	6,753	11,144	17,897	[illegible]
1919-20	7,280	11,523	18,803	[illegible]

* Represents figures for Bengal as it was then constituted.

Suspected "kala azar" in Tangail and Manikganj.

13. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be

pleased to state whether it has come to the knowledge of the Government that the endemic fever in the subdivisions of Tangail and Manikganj is suspected to be *kala azar* and not malaria, and that such fever is devastating the locality?

(*b*) Are the Government prepared to institute local inquiries and an investigation by competent agency in some important centre to settle the question with a view to ensure a proper method of treatment, and to advise local medical men to discriminate between the two diseases?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that it is reported that prejudice against quinine among the people is becoming extensive owing to its wrong administration in cases of *kala azar*?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) and (*b*) Special inquiries have been made in both the subdivisions mentioned and the results are summarized as follows in resolution No. 1355 San., dated the 27th December, 1920, reviewing the working of the Public Health Department during the year 1919:—

"In the Tangail subdivision in the Mymensingh district, it appears that there is a high rate of *kala azar* infection, and the District Board has been urged to start a campaign against the disease on systematic lines. In the Dacca district the result of the inquiry is to show that a severe stage of infection has not yet been reached, and it rests with the District Board to make a thorough survey of infected areas and to arrange for treatment, which should not only prevent the further spread of the disease but be effectual in eradicating it from the district."

Government are informed that the Mymensingh District Board propose to start 18 centres for *kala azar* treatment in Tangail under the control of six doctors, each of whom will visit each of three centres for two days each week. It is understood that diagnosis between *kala azar* and malaria is not easy and that the two diseases are frequently confused. A copy of a circular* on the subject by the Director of Public Health is laid on the library table.

(*c*) Government are not aware that an extensive prejudice against quinine is being created through mistakes in diagnosis.

Gaibandha Sub-Registry Office.

14. Maulvi HAMID-UD-DIN KHAN: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education been drawn to the difficulties of the people whose documents for registration are returned for four or five days successively before their registration at Gaibandha Sub-Registry Office?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister state what steps have been taken on the representations of different bodies asking for an extra officer to cope with the heavy work in the above office?

*Not printed in these Proceedings.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) It has been ascertained that owing to the increase in the number of documents presented, viz., from 6,529 in 1919 to 7,297 in 1920, there has been some delay in registrations.

(*b*) A representation from the local Bar has been received by the District Registrar, Rangpur, and it is understood that he is about to submit proposals for the appointment of a Joint Sub-Registrar.

Partition of Bakarganj district.

15. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to say whether it is a fact that there was a proposal to partition the district of Bakarganj?

(*b*) If so, is the partition scheme still in the contemplation of Government?

(*c*) If so, can the Government give an approximate time within which the scheme will be carried out?

(*d*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of directing that the partition of the district of Bakarganj be effected at an early date, before the partition of any other district, if any others are in contemplation?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) The Bengal District Administration Committee recommended that the present district of Bakarganj should be divided into two districts.

(*b*) and (*c*) The proposed partition of Bakarganj has been held in abeyance and it is impossible to say when it will be taken up.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative.

Gun Licenses.

16. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to say whether there is any other country in the world, besides India, where the natives of the country are not permitted to possess guns or arms without license?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the number of gun licenses granted and renewed in each district of Bengal in the year 1919?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the number of gun licenses granted and renewed under the new Arms Act of 1920 in each district of Bengal in the years 1920 and 1921 year by year, other than those of persons who would have been exempted under the previous Act as privileged?

(*d*) Is it a fact that license fees are realised from those who are allowed to possess guns for killing wild birds and beasts to protect cattle and crops and from those who have to possess arms for the purpose of performing public duty such as police officers?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of directin that such persons be exempted from paying any fees for possessing guns

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) There is at least on other country in the world besides India, viz., England, where the native of the country are not permitted to possess guns or firearms without license. It is not proposed to conduct a world-wide inquiry in ord to answer the question in its widest form.

(*b*) It is understood that licenses for the possession of guns in ol forms XV, XVI, XVII and XVIII are meant. A statement is laid o the table.

(*c*) Figures relating to the administration of the Arms Act durin 1920 are not yet available. The annual reports are due to Governmer on the 1st of April.

(*d*) Licenses for the possession of arms and for going armed for th destruction of wild animals which do injury to human beings, cattl or crops, are issued free of all fee. Public servants, such as polic officers, are not required to take out licenses for arms which they ar obliged to bear or possess.

(*e*) The question does not arise.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 16, showin the number of arms licenses in old forms XV, XVI, XVII, XVII in all the districts of Bengal during the year 1919.

1	2	3
Name of district.	Number of fresh licences granted during the year.	Total number of licences in force at the close of the year.
Burdwan	254	1,112
Birbhum	116	579
Bankura	66	626
Midnapore	158	1,376
Hooghly	169	1,047
Howrah	45	639
Rajshahi	95	1,284
Dinajpur	88	1,143
Jalpaiguri	149	463
Rangpur	98	968
Bogra	51	807
Pabna	42	732
Malda	72	741
Darjeeling	35	293
24-Parganas	308	3,125
Nadia	84	1,096
Murshidabad	168	715
Jessore	112	849
Khulna	14	500
Dacca	98	1,483

1	2	3
Name of district.	Number of fresh licences granted during the year.	Total number of licences in force at the close of the year.
Mymensingh	93	2,660
Faridpur	69	601
Bakarganj	46	236
Chittagong	90	1,754
Tippera	20	1,174
Noakhali	15	384
Chittagong Hill Tracts ...	1	1,551
Calcutta	38	432

NOTE.—Separate figures for renewed licences are not given in the annual reports. The figures of column 3—column 2 includes renewed licences and licences in force for more than one year which do not require annual renewal.

Separation of the Judicial from the Executive.

17. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to say whether it is a fact that there was a proposal to separate the Judicial from the Executive?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Government asked for opinions from the executive officers whether they wished to serve either in the one or the other branch of the service?

(*c*) Can the Hon'ble the Member give any information as to whether the Judicial is to be separated from the Executive? If so, when?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) Proposals for the further separation of Judicial and Executive functions have been advanced at various times.

(*b*) Each year those officers of the Indian Civil Service who have completed 12 years' service are allotted either to the Judicial or to the Executive Branch. With a view to this allotment the officers recruited in 1908 were recently asked to declare their choice in the matter, but this is merely in accordance with the usual annual procedure.

(*c*) This Government is not in a position to make an announcement at present.

Grievances of civil court peons.

18. Babu NALINI NATH ROY: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department been drawn to the resolutions passed at the Bengal Civil Court Peons' Conference held at Dacca regarding the grievances of these men, viz., inadequate pay, unjust guard-duty, promotion, etc.?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what steps are being taken to redress the same?

(*c*) What is the duty of the process-servers?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of directing that such persons be exempted from paying any fees for possessing guns?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) There is at least one other country in the world besides India, viz., England, where the natives of the country are not permitted to possess guns or firearms without a license. It is not proposed to conduct a world-wide inquiry in order to answer the question in its widest form.

(*b*) It is understood that licenses for the possession of guns in old forms XV, XVI, XVII and XVIII are meant. A statement is laid on the table.

(*c*) Figures relating to the administration of the Arms Act during 1920 are not yet available. The annual reports are due to Government on the 1st of April.

(*d*) Licenses for the possession of arms and for going armed for the destruction of wild animals which do injury to human beings, cattle or crops, are issued free of all fee. Public servants, such as police officers, are not required to take out licenses for arms which they are obliged to bear or possess.

(*e*) The question does not arise.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 16, showing the number of arms licenses in old forms XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII in all the districts of Bengal during the year 1919.

1	2	3
Name of district.	Number of fresh licences granted during the year.	Total number of licenses in force at the close of the year.
Burdwan	254	1,112
Birbhum	116	579
Bankura	66	626
Midnapore	158	1,376
Hooghly	169	1,047
Howrah	45	639
Rajshahi	95	1,284
Dinajpur	88	1,143
Jalpaiguri	149	463
Rangpur	98	968
Bogra	51	807
Pabna	42	732
Malda	72	741
Darjeeling	35	293
24-Parganas	308	3,125
Nadia	84	1,096
Murshidabad	168	715
Jessore	112	849
Khulna	14	500
Dacca	98	1,483

1	2	3
Name of district.	Number of fresh licences granted during the year.	Total number of licences in force at the close of the year.
Mymensingh	93	2,660
Faridpur	69	601
Bakarganj	46	236
Chittagong	90	1,754
Tippera	20	1,174
Noakhali	15	384
Chittagong Hill Tracts ...	1	1,551
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(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what steps are being taken to redress the same?

(*c*) What is the duty of the process-servers?

(*d*) What are the total amounts realised from process fees and the balance left after paying the process-servers their pay, during the last three years, 1918-20?

(*e*) For how many days in a month on an average was a peon deputed to process-serving work during that period?

(*f*) Besides process-serving, are the process-servers deputed to the works of orderly, office-peon and night-guard?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (*a*) Yes, a copy of the proceedings of the conference was forwarded to Government informally.

(*b*) In view of the fact that the pay of the process-servers was raised only in May last, Government do not propose to take any further action in this connection.

The process-servers are appointed in accordance with the rules framed by the High Court under the Court Fees Act and their number is regulated by the number of processes to be served. They are therefore on the temporary establishment. They belong to what is designated the 'inferior service' and are men of little education. They cannot therefore be given the privileges enjoyed by Government servants on permanent establishments or of a "superior service." Nor can they generally be promoted to ministerial posts on account of their educational disqualification. Government do not therefore propose to take any action on the resolutions, several of which are of vague character.

(*c*) The duty of the process-servers, as the very name implies, is to serve processes, whether they be summonses, warrants, notices or whatever be the description.

(*d*) The member is referred to the reply given to the question asked by the Hon'ble Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri at the Council meeting of the 1st September, 1920, which contains the figures for 1915 to 1919. The figures for 1920 are not available.

(*e*) No information on the subject is available.

(*f*) Prior to 1902 complaints were received that process-servers were employed in some places on work other than service of processes, and Government in their circulars No. 3460 J.D., dated the 17th October, 1902, and No. 3884 J., dated the 31st October, 1903, strictly prohibited this practice. No instance of a breach of these orders has since been received.

List of certain heads of expenditure not requiring submission to the Council.

19. Colonel A. J. PUGH: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to lay on the table a list, so far as Bengal is concerned, of all persons (other than High Court Judges and the Advocate-General) "appointed by or with the approval of His

ajesty or by the Secretary of State in Council" (as referred to in section 11 (3) (*iv*) of the Government of India Act, 1919), indicating in each ıse the date of, and salaries attached to, such appointments.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: The Governor and Members the Executive Council are appointed by His Majesty by warrant under ıe Royal Sign Manual. In accordance with the rules framed under ection 96 B (2) of the Government of India Act, all first appointments an all-India service, other than appointments made by promotion to ıch service of officers belonging to some other service or of members the bar appointed to posts ordinarily held by the members of the ıdian Civil Service, shall be made by the Secretary of State in Council. the same rules the all-India services are defined as consisting of—

(*a*) all officers serving under local Governments who are members of any of the following:—

(1) The Indian Civil Service.
(2) The Indian Police Service.
(3) The Indian Forest Service.
(4) The Indian Educational Service.
(5) The Indian Agricultural Service.
(6) The Indian Service of Engineers.
(7) The Imperial branch of the Civil Veterinary Department.
(8) Officers of the Indian Medical Service in civil employ and any other service declared by the Secretary of State in Council to be an all-India service.

(*b*) Military officers and other officers holding posts borne on the provincial cadres of the above services.

For a list of the persons employed in these services, together with ıe dates of and salaries attached to their appointments, the member is ferred to the Bengal Quarterly Civil List.

Appointment of a Muhammadan as a deputy-collector of income-tax.

20. Mr. RAZAUR RAHMAN KHAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the lember in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state hether any Muhammadan has been appointed as a deputy-collector of ıcome-tax since the creation of the office?

(*b*) If the answer to clause (*a*) is in the negative, are the Government considering the desirability of appointing a Muhammadan on a acancy occurring in the office?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): (*a*) The reply is in the negative.

(*b*) The matter will be considered when a vacancy arises.

Report on the merits of the regulations as to recording votes in the general constituencies.

21. Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to say whether the Government are considering the advisability of calling for a report from each polling officer on the merits of the regulations prescribed by the Government in respect of recording of votes in the general constituencies?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: Reports as to the suitability of the electoral rules and regulations have already been obtained from Commissioners and District Officers who were returning officers at the recent elections, and also from the revising authorities for the Calcutta constituencies. The returning officers have given their opinions after consulting selected presiding officers and revising authorities, and it is not proposed to call for further reports.

These papers are under examination and if they point to the need of change in any of the regulations the requisite steps will be taken.

Revision of the pay of the ministerial and menial services.

22. Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether the Committee which has been appointed to advise on the revision of the pay of the ministerial and menial services has come to any decision regarding the rate of increase to be given? If so, is the report unanimous?

(*b*) If not, will the Hon'ble the Finance Member be pleased to state on what basis the extra provision of Rs. 45,61,000 in the coming year's Budget has been made, and whether the Committee was consulted before the figure was inserted in the Budget?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) be in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Finance Member be pleased to state whether, if as a result of the recommendation of the Committee and further consideration of the subject, the amount is found insufficient, it will be possible later to supplement the provision?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Finance Member be pleased to state separately the number of ministerial and menial officers concerned, the total present cost on account of salary including acting allowance for each class and the percentage which the proposed Rs. 45,61,000 bears to the cost thus shown?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: (*a*) The report of the Committee has not been received and is not expected before the end of March.

(*b*) The figure of Rs. 45,61,000 was arrived at by rough calculation in consultation with the President of the Committee.

(*c*) If necessary, a supplementary demand will be submitted to the Legislative Council.

(*d*) It would take much time and trouble to collect this information Full details will be given in the Committee's report

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: Is it proposed to publish the evidence that has been taken by the Committee for the information of the members of this House?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: That question cannot be considered until the report of the Committee is received.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: What is the highest and lowest grade of pay settled by the Committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: Nothing has been settled as the inquiry is still in progress.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: Is any retrospective effect proposed to be given to these officers as has been done in the case of the higher grade officers?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: The question does not arise

The Fisheries Department.

23. Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state from what year the Fisheries Department has been in existence in Bengal?

(*b*) What has been the total expenditure on the Department up to date?

(*c*) What practical and research work has the Department done up to date?

(*d*) If so, with what result?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to give the list of the experts in charge of the Department, with their emoluments and qualifications?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) December 1911.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) The member is referred to the reply to unstarred question No. 50 (*a*) by Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur in the Council meeting of 7th February, 1921.

(*e*) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 23 (e), showing a list of Experts in the Fisheries Department.

No	Designation.	Name.	Qualifications	Emoluments	Remarks.
1	Director of Fisheries.	Vacant ...	...	Rs. 600—50—1,500	Mr. G Evans, M.A., C.I.E., Director of Agriculture, Bengal in charge
2	Superintendent of Fisheries.	Babu Anil Chandra Ghosh.	M. Sc. in Zoology.	Rs. 200/2—250—20—750, with efficiency bar at Rs 550.	... ...
3	Ditto ...	Vacant ...	...	Ditto ..	Babu Surendra Nath Ghosh, Zoological Assistant, appointed substantively *pro tempore* from 25th September 1920, pending recruitment of a permanent officer to the post.

Amount sanctioned for the Bangabasi defamation case.

24. Babu JOGESH CHANDRA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to sate what amount has been expended by the Government up to date in the case Dwijendra Nath Ghose *versus* the proprietors of the *Bangabasi* newspaper (otherwise known as the Bangabasi defamation case) now pending in the Original Side of the Calcutta High Court, and also what further amount has been sanctioned for the case?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: A sum of Rs. 88,853 has been expended up to date. No additional amount has yet been sanctioned.

Rifles and revolvers to European police sergeants.

25. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state what is the strength of the European police sergeant force in Calcutta?

(*b*) What percentage of them is allowed the use of revolvers and rifles?

(*c*) Under what conditions are they allowed the use of revolvers and rifles?

(*d*) What qualifications, if any, are required to be satisfied before a European sergeant is considered competent to have revolvers and cartridges allowed to him?

(*e*) What instructions, if any, are given to the sergeants as to their use, and what precautions are taken against their abuse?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) There are 152 European and Anglo-Indian sergeants.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) All sergeants undergo a course of instruction and practice on a local range, and revolvers may be issued to those who pass a qualifying test. Revolvers are carried by sergeants on certain night beats and are also issued to sergeants sent out on alarms of serious riots or other emergencies. Muskets are not ordinarily issued, but are kept in reserve for use in emergencies.

(*e*) Sergeants when supplied with revolvers are cautioned that they must use them only as a last resort in accordance with the instructions of Government. A resumé of the Government instructions on the subject of the use of firearms by the police in suppressing disorders is appended.

Resumé of Government instructions regarding the use of firearms by the Police in the suppression of disorders.

When it is necessary to fire upon a mob, this must be done in such a way that the fire shall be immediately effective. Experience has shown that the use of blank cartridge does not succeed in checking a determined mob, and in fact often produces the opposite effect, and may ultimately result in more loss of life than would have been the case had the firing been effective in the first instance. The issue of blank cartridge on such occasions has, therefore, been absolutely forbidden. For the same reason the practice of firing over the heads of a crowd has been interdicted. This method in fact not only often fails to convince a mob of rioters of the determination of the police or the military to suppress the riot, but has the additional disadvantage of possibly sacrificing innocent persons, while sparing the guilty. The order to fire should only be given in the last resort, and when it is impossible to disperse the mob by any other means but when the order is given, the firing should be at once effective, and must be such as, with the minimum of injury, to convince the crowd of the necessity of immediately dispersing. The mob should be kept at a distance, so that the police may not be overwhelmed by a rush; full and sufficient warning should be given by the civil officer or the squad commander, as the case may be, to the rioters of the consequences of failure to disperse; when firing has to be resorted to, it must be immediately effective, but no more than is necessary in the circumstances of the case, file firing, section firing and volley firing should be used according to the distance that separates the mob from the police, or the degree of danger to which the police or the life or property of members of the public are exposed, and, lastly, the word "cease fire" must be given as soon as the mob shows the slightest inclination of retiring or dispersing.

Want of police-station at Chikandi.

26. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to say whether it is a fact that there is no police-station at Chikandi, although there are three munsifs there?

(*b*) Is it in the contemplation of the Government to establish a police-station or an out-post at Chikandi?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) The facts are as stated. The nearest thana is at Palong, four miles off.

(*b*) The intention is to open a police-station at Chikandi when the proposed subdivision with headquarters at Chikandi is formed It is not possible to state when this project will be taken up.

Residential accommodation of Munsifs at Chikandi.

27. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to say whether it is a fact that munsifs at Chikandi have got to live in thatched huts with mud plinths as tenants of pleaders and pleaders' clerks?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Mr J. C. H. Macnair, the then District Judge of Faridpur, drew the attention of the High Court in the Annual Administration Report to the miserable conditions under which munsifs have got to live at Chikandi?

(*c*) If so, what steps have since then been taken by the Government to remedy the defects?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of recommending to the High Court to make Chikandi a two years' station for munsifs like Bhanga in the same district?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) Yes. Government are aware that the munsifs at Chikandi live in thatched houses owned by private landlords.

(*b*) The annual administration reports are submitted by District Judges to the High Court and not to Government who have no information in the matter.

(*c*) It is the policy of Government to provide munsifs at outlying stations with suitable quarters and, as a matter of fact, houses have been built at many places, but the progress has not been very rapid on account of the shortness of funds. In the case of the munsifs at Chikandi administrative approval was given in 1917 to the construction of residences at an estimated cost of Rs. 18,500 which was revised in 1919 to Rs. 30,840. It is proposed to allot Rs. 10,000 to the project during the next financial year.

(*d*) No. This is a matter which lies entirely at the discretion of the High Court.

Pay and prospects of the Subordinate Educational Service.

28. Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state when the scheme to increase the pay and settle the prospects of the Subordinate Educational Service is likely to be published?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: The Government of Bengal are not at present in a position to make any statement

Pay of clerks in Government employ.

29. Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state what steps are being taken to increase the pay of clerks in Government employ in view of the rise of the price of the necessaries of life?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: Government have appointed a committee consisting of Mr. McAlpin, I.C.S., Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur and Mr. S. N. Roy, I.C.S., to advise as to the revision, in accordance with modern economic conditions, of the pay of the permanent ministerial establishments in all Provincial offices, as well as in the Imperial offices under the control of the Local Government in this Presidency. As an *ad-interim* measure Government have sanctioned the grant of temporary allowances with effect from the 1st April, 1920 Copies of two resolutions,* dated the 1st September and the 2nd November, 1920, dealing with these questions have been placed on the library table.

Chaukidars and chaukidari tax.

30. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state what was the total number of chaukidars in each of the several districts of Bengal during the last five years ending in 1920?

(*b*) What was the total amount paid to the chaukidars as salary in the said districts during such period?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the amount of receipts on account of chaukdari tax in Bengal, district by district, during each of the last five years ending in 1920?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) Information is being obtained from district officers and a statement will be laid on the table at a subsequent meeting.

Scheme for reorganising the Subordinate Civil Service.

31. Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state

* Not printed in these Proceedings.

whether it is a fact that the scheme for reorganising the Subordinate Civil Service has been finally drawn up and sent to the Government of India for sanction?

(*b*) If so, what is the scale drawn up by the Bengal Government?

(*c*) Has the sanction of the Government of India been obtained to the same?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that there is a widespread feeling of discontent amongst the members of the Subordinate Civil Service on account of the long delay in giving effect to the scheme?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in a position to state when the scheme will be given effect to?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: The question of the reorganisation is still under consideration and it is hoped to make an announcement shortly. A scheme was submitted to the Government of India, but pending final orders upon it, its details cannot be disclosed.

Wards for phthisis cases in the Presidency General Hospital.

32. Mr. H. BARTON: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that the two Pilgrim Memorial wards in the Presidency General Hospital, erected over six years ago chiefly for phthisis cases, cannot be brought into use for lack of the necessary funds to meet the expenses of the required nursing and menial staff?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that this has necessitated the mixing up of phthisis cases with other cases in the other wards and endangering the health of the patients.

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of making provision in the coming budget for the necessary funds to work these wards?

(*d*) If not, how do Government propose to meet the situation?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The wards were completed in February 1917. It has not yet been possible to open them owing to the difficulty of housing the extra nurses required.

(*b*) No. Phthisis cases are dealt with in the verandahs of the hospital wards and are not mixed up with other patients.

(*c*) and (*d*) A scheme for the construction of nurses' quarters at the Presidency General Hospital has been prepared, of which the estimated cost is Rs. 3,64,000: this scheme will provide accommodation for the extra nurses required for the phthisis wards. Government regret that owing to financial stringency it has not been possible to provide for the scheme in the Budget for 1921-22, and it will have to wait till funds are available.

"Kala azar" in Calcutta.

33. Mr. H. BARTON: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the spread of *kala azar* in Calcutta?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to say whether a map exists of Calcutta from the *kala azar* point of view showing the chief endemic areas?

(*c*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of having such a map made so that the medical authorities might know accurately which are the infected centres where the disease is maintained?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The number of deaths recorded as due to *kala azar* in 1920 was 162 equivalent to a death rate of ·18 per thousand. No fewer than 48 or nearly 30 per cent. were imported cases. The average number of deaths from *kala azar* during the preceding three years was 90. The increase is probably more apparent than real and appears to be due to the larger number of cases coming into the city for treatment.

(*b*) No. The wards returning the largest number of fatal cases are—

Ward 1 Shampukur (14 deaths)—26 per thousand
Ward 9 Moochcepara (15 deaths)—23 per thousand
Ward 22—Bhowanipore (18 deaths)—32 per thousand

(*c*) The Chairman of the Corporation reports that a spot-map for other diseases in under preparation and *kala azar* will be included

Agricultural publications.

34. Babu FANINDRALAL DE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether the Government agricultural publication in the vernacular are distributed free of charge to the presidents of the union boards?

(*b*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of doing so?

(*c*) Do the district agricultural officers keep themselves in constant touch with the cultivators, with a view to instruct and help them on modern methods of cultivation and, if so, what is the nature of the help rendered?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) The Bengal Agricultural Department Year Book in Bengali is distributed free to the union boards. Other agricultural publications are also supplied free to them on requisition.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

(c) The main duties of the agricultural officers are to get the culti vators interested in agricultural improvement by personal discus sion and visual demonstration. They are the chief means by which th Department brings home the results of scientific research and experi ment to the agricultural population. The agricultural officers show th people in their own fields and on demonstration farms the advantages o improved varieties of crops and new manures and suggest remedies fo crop diseases, insect pests, etc. These officers are also responsible fo organising village agricultural associations and seed stores, which pla an important part in introducing agricultural improvements of prove efficacy among the cultivators.

Subdivisional charitable hospitals.

35. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: Is the Hon'ble the Minister i charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that most o the subdivisional charitable hospitals are on the verge of bankruptcy for want of funds?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: Governmen regret that owing to inadequate local support mutassal dispensaries including those at subdivisional headquarters, are in a state of financia embarrassment. Their financial condition has been described as follow by the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bengal:—"These institutions generally live a hand-to-mouth existence. Their income is hardly sufficient to meet the bare necessities in normal times and, wher prices of drugs and other articles run high or when any equipment o furniture has to be purchased or replaced, there is no money to meet the charge. Subscriptions are promised, but paid most irregularly or not at all. Expenditure has on the one hand steadily increased and income on the other is uncertain or falling. The result is that either the most urgent necessities are not provided or are purchased on credit and payment of bills is put off from year to year."

It is the manifest duty of local bodies and of the public, which benefit by these institutions, to take steps to remedy this lamentable state of affairs.

Duties of deputy superintendents and inspectors of police.

36. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state the duties of deputy superintendents and inspectors of police in the subdivisions?

(b) Is it a fact that their duties are identical?

(c) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the number of deputy superintendents and inspectors of police in each subdivision of the districts of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (a) The main duties of deputy superintendents of police at subdivisions are contained in rules 125 and

126 of Part I of the Police Regulations, Bengal. The duties of circle inspectors are enumerated in rules 1—28, 266 and 279 of Part V of the same publication. Copies of the Police Regulations can be consulted in the Council Library.

(*b*) In subdivisions where there is only one inspector and no deputy superintendent of police, the inspector performs the duties of a subdivisional police officer. In subdivisions to which both officers are posted, which are the heaviest and most important charges, the intention is that the deputy superintendent will exercise general control and supervision, so as to get into direct touch with the subordinate police and the people; and be in charge of the entire administrative work and the duties of inspection; while the functions of the inspectors will relate more directly to the professional work of the prevention and detection of crime. A clear distribution of duties between these two officers on these lines has not yet been made in all cases. It is being tried experimentally in three subdivisions.

(*c*) There is an inspector in all subdivisions. A statement is given of those subdivisions in which there are deputy superintendents as well as inspectors.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 36 (c).

District.	Subdivision.	Circle Inspectors.	Deputy Superintendents.
24-Parganas ...	Sadar	2	2*
	Barrackpore ...	1	1
	Barasat	1	1
	Basirhat	1	
	Diamond Harbour ...	1	1
Nadia	Kushtia	1	1
Khulna	Bagerhat	1	1
Hooghly	Serampore ...	1	1
Midnapore	Sadar	3	1†
	Contai	1	1
Dacca	Narayanganj ...	2	1
	Munshiganj ...	2	1
	Manikganj ..	1	1
Mymensingh ...	Netrakona ...	1	1
	Kishorganj ...	2	1
	Tangail	2	1
Tippera	Chandpur	1	1
	Brahmanbaria ...	2	1
Faridpur	Madaripur ...	2	1
Bakarganj	Pirojpur	2	1
	Patuakhali ...	2	1
Rajshahi	Nator	1	1
Dinajpur	Balurghat ...	2	1
Pabna	Serajganj ...	2	1

* The Sadar subdivision is divided into two circles and 1 Inspector and 1 Deputy Superintendent of Police are in charge of each.

† The Deputy Superintendent is in charge of Sadar Circle B.

Subsidised Charitable Dispensary at Panjia in Jessore.

37. Babu NALINI NATH ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the petition submitted by the inhabitants of Panjia to the Chairman of the District Board, Jessore, for the establishment at Panjia of a subsidised charitable dispensary?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to mention the amount of cost, recurring and non-recurring, that the villagers of Panjia expressed their intention to contribute to the establishment and upkeep of the dispensary?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to mention the measures, if any, that have subsequently been taken by the Board to give effect to the petition?

(*d*) If no steps have as yet been adopted, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to explain the reason for the delay?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) A copy of letter No. 1382*, dated 21st February, 1921, from the Chairman of the District Board and of its enclosures, is laid on the library table.

Grievances of the Inhabitants of Panjia and the adjoining villages in the Jessore district.

38. Babu NALINI NATH ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to place on the table copies of addresses submitted to the Chairman of the District Board, Jessore, by the inhabitants of Panjia and the adjoining villages on the occasion of the Chairman's official visit to Panjia in June, 1919?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state specifically the measures, if any, which have since then been adopted by the said Board to remove the grievances as embodied in the addresses?

(*c*) If no steps have been taken as yet are the Government considering the desirability of instituting an inquiry to ascertain the extent and intensity of the grievances from which the people of the villages are suffering?

(*d*) If the Board have not adopted any remedial measures to remove the grievances of the villagers in question, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons that the Board hold as a justification for its conduct?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: The present Chairman of the District Board reports that no address was received in the office of the Board and that the District Board are not in a position to say whether any address was presented to the late Chairman on the occasion of his visit to Panjia in June 1919.

The questions asked in (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) do not therefore arise.

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*Not printed in these Proceedings.

Agricultural farms.

39. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state how many agricultural farms have been established since 1918 to facilitate instruction in improved methods of agriculture and where the same are situated?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: Three. They are located at Mymensingh, Bogra, and Comilla.

Bengal Civil Service (Judicial).

40. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state when the Government are likely to give effect to the scheme of appointing probationers in the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial)?

(*b*) Is it in the contemplation of the Government to increase the strength of the cadre of the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial)?

(*c*) Is it a fact that salary slips for Rs. 350 were not issued to certain officers of the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial) in spite of their confirmation because they could not, through no fault of their own, complete two years of actual service before the 1st December, 1919?

(*d*) Are the Government aware that some of these officers were confirmed more than three years and some even four years after the date of getting their first officiating appointment?

(*e*) Have the Government before them any proposal to modify the method of calculation of the period of an officer's service in these cases by ruling that an officer of the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial) who has been confirmed more than two years after the date of his first appointment should get Rs. 350 either on confirmation or on completion of two years' actual service, whichever occurs earlier?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) and (*b*) The member is referred to the replies given to Maulvi Fazlal Karim, M.L.C., on these points

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) No. The salaries of the members of the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial), (Sub-Judges and munsifs) under the time-scale were fixed according to the length of actual service rendered by each officer. No departure can therefore be made from this principle in the case of junior officers who have not been given the confirmation pay of Rs. 350 per mensem.

Cases of cutting down trees instituted by landlords against their tenants.

41. Maulvi MUHAMMAD RAFIQUE UDDIN KHAN: Will th Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Lan Revenue) be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing separatel the number of cases—

(*i*) civil, and

(*ii*) criminal,

brought during the last ten years by the landlords for cutting down tree against holders of occupancy rights or ryots within the province?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR o BURDWAN: (*i*) and (*ii*) As the records of all such cases are not pre served for ten years, it is impossible to supply the statement.

Chaktai Khal project.

42. Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble th Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether there is a project to open out the Chaktai Khal in th town of Chittagong;

(*ii*) if so, at what stage it is;

(*iii*) what the probable cost will be of clearing out the whole of th khal to allow country boats to ply in the same; and

(*iv*) when the project is likely to be taken up?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR o BURDWAN: (*i*) There is no proposal to open out the Chaktai Kha in the town of Chittagong by the Irrigation Department.

(*ii*) The question does not arise.

(*iii*) No estimates were prepared for the work of silt clearance.

(*iv*) The question does not arise.

Malaria in Tangail.

43. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) I the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self Government aware of the prevalence of the worst type of malaria withi the municipal limits of the Tangail subdivision?

(*b*) If so, what steps are the Government taking with a view t ameliorate the condition of the people of the affected locality?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) It is under stood that the question relates to the Tangail municipality. Govern ment are aware that there was an increase of malaria in the munici pality in 1920, possibly as a result of low floods in the locality?

(*b*) Measures for the improvement of local conditions are primarily a duty of the municipality, Government has received no communica tion on the subject from the municipality.

Water-ways division at Dacca.

44. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: With reference to the answer given to my unstarred question No. 56 at the meeting of 1st July, 1920, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the correspondence that passed between the local Government and the Government of India on the question of the formation of a permanent water-ways division at Dacca.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: Government regret they are unable to lay the correspondence asked for by the member of the table.

Hookworm investigations.

45. Babu FANINDRALAL DE: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the final conclusions, if any, arrived at by the Government with regard to the Hookworm investigations undertaken by the Government and its bearing on the public health?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: As a result of the anti-hookworm campaign instituted by Government, valuable investigation work has been done, knowledge of the disease and its effects has been disseminated and progress has been made in establishing centres for diagnosis and treatment. In this connection reference is invited to resolution No. 38 T.—San.,* dated the 31st May, 1920, of which a copy is laid on the library table.

Non-payment of the price of bandage cloth for patients of police cases in hospitals.

46. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to say whether it is a fact that Government have stopped payment of the price of bandage cloth for patients of police cases in hospitals, and that consequently some of the hospitals have closed their indoor patient ward?

(*b*) If the answer to clause (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to say whether the Government are reconsidering their decision in this matter?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: The member is referred to the orders conveyed in Government order Nos. 167-71 T.—Med., dated the 19th June, 1919, to all Commissioners of Divisions, a copy of which is laid on the table. Government are not aware that any hospital has had to close its indoor patients' wards as a result of these orders.

*Not printed in these Proceedings.

Government do not see any reason to reconsider their decision.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 46.

Nos. 167-71 T.—Medl., dated Darjeeling, the 19th June 1919.

From—THE HON'BLE MR. C. F. PAYNE, I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Finance (Medical) Department,

To—The Commissioners of the (1) Burdwan, (2) Presidency, (3) Rajshahi, (4) Dacca and (5) Chittagong Divisions.

I am directed to refer to the correspondence ending with your (1) letter No. 219 M., dated the 21st February 1919, (2) letter No. 193 L S.-G., dated the 14th March 1919, (3) letter No. 1699 J., dated the 8th May 1919, (4) memorandum No. 2048 J., dated the 28th April 1919, and (5) letter No. 104 T. G.—X-3, dated the 21st March 1919, on the subject of the debt of the charges for dressings of patients in medico-legal cases in class III dispensaries. The reports submitted by the local officers show that there is at present a great diversity of practice obtaining in different localities in the matter. It appears that in the majority of cases these charges are met out of the funds of the dispensaries concerned; while in the remaining cases they are borne by Government, the expenditure being either debited to the Collector's budget under the head "Land Revenue—Supplies and Services—Hospital expenses of wounded persons," or under the head "Magistrate's grant—Law and Justice—Hospital expenses of wounded persons," or met from the Magistrate's contingent grant. I am to say that after a careful consideration of the question, the Governor in Council has decdied tht a uniform system should be observed throughout the Presidency in the matter of these charges.

2. Class III dispensaries are generally charitable institutions, and under the existing rules relating to these institutions any wounded person can attend at such a dispensary and claim to be treated and dressed. His Excellency in Council is of opinion that the fact that the police send him to the dispensary does not make any material difference to this aspect of the case, and considers that expenditure incurred on this account is a legitimate charge on the Dispensary Funds. He accordingly directs that the charges for the dressings of patients in medico-legal cases in class III dispensaries should henceforth be met in all cases from the funds of the dispensaries concerned, and I am to request that you will be so good as to issue the necessary instruction to the District Officers in your division and, through them, to the authorities of class III dispensaries.

3. I am to add that the charges on account of diet of patients in medico-legal cases will continue to be borne by Government as at present.

Electoral roll of the general constituencies.

47. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state on what basis the Southborough Committee estimated the number of voters in the general constituencies?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps were taken to acquaint the inhabitants of rural areas with the electoral rules especially those contained in Schedule II and when were these steps taken?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of ascertaining the cause of the heavy discrepancy in those cases where the number of electors on the roll of a general constituency is less than half the number estimated by the Southborough Committee?

(*d*) Has it attracted the notice of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department that while the number of voters on the electoral roll exceeds the number estimated by the Southborough Committee in the majority of Muhammadan constituencies the number of enrolled voters exceeds the said estimate in the case of only four out of forty-two non-Muhammadan constituencies?

(*e*) If it has not, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to refer to the statement submitted in answer to my question No 39 (unstarred) asked at the meeting of the 7th February, 1921, and to state whether this is a fact?

(*f*) If the answer to clause (*e*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of having the electoral rolls for non-Muhammadan general constituencies revised?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) The figures of the number of electors, qualified by the payment of cess, given in the Franchise Committee's report, were obtained in four districts by a scrutiny of the record-of-rights, and in the remaining districts by rough and somewhat hurried calculation from the latest cess revaluation records. It was recognised at the time that the figures obtained would not be more than approximations. The number of chaukidari tax-payers was obtained by local inquiry.

(*b*) The electoral rules were not finally sanctioned by the Secretary of State until the end of July, 1920, but the provisional qualifications of electors were in the hands of panchayats by the end of February of that year, when the preparation of the draft rolls was initiated. So far as was practicable, publicity was given to the qualifications by the panchayats.

(*c*) No, because, as already stated, the estimates given by the Southborough Committee were admittedly rough calculations only.

(*d*) and (*e*) The fact to which the member draws attention appears to be borne out by the answer to question No. 39, asked at the meeting of the 7th February last. But in the preparation of the figures given by the Franchise Committee it was impossible to make due allowance for the Hindu joint family, and this probably increased the error in non-Muhammadan constituencies.

(*f*) There is no intention of revising the rolls of the non-Muhammadan general constituencies until the next general revision under the rules.

Admission into Medical College.

48. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: (*a*) With refertnce to the statement in reply to unstarred questions No. 13 (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) for the meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council of the 7th February, 1921,

will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) the names and addresses of the M.Sc.'s who were selected in 1918, 1919 and 1920 for admission into the Calcutta Medical College, but who did not join;

(*ii*) whether the selected candidates are communicated with in writing, and, if so, what check is exercised by the authorities to safeguard the timely issue of those communications and their delivery at their respective destinations; and

(*iii*) whether these letters are sent out in registered covers or not?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of making a pronouncement as to what should be the various qualifications of the candidates for admission into the Calcutta Medical College, and to submit a comparative table with different items of those qualifications applied to the unsuccessful B.Sc.'s (Honours) individually and also the successful I.Sc.'s (2nd and 3rd Divisions) individually, so as to justify the admission of the latter?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) (*i*) *1918.*—(1) Bhupati Bhusan Datta, M.SC., post office Tatwa, district Burdwan; (2) Jagadindra Nath Lahiri, M.SC., Prithibir Itihasha office, Howrah; (3) Girijapada Bhattacharji, M.SC., 12, Hara Lal Mitter Street, Calcutta.

1919.—Krishna Lal Sanyal, M.SC., 43, Harrison Road, Calcutta.

1920.—(1) Hari Das Dalal, M.SC., 52, Nemu Gossain Lane, Calcutta; (2) Sarat Chandra Dutt. 7, Halder Lane, Bow Bazar, Calcutta.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) As soon as the candidates are selected for admission in the Medical College, their names are posted on the notice-board for the information of the public. Most applicants or their relations and friends crowd to this board to see the list of selected candidates, and each selected candidate is also informed by letter signed by the Principal. The letters are duly checked by the Principal and then sent to the General Post Office. It is not possible to ascertain whether they are delivered at their respective destinations. These letters are not sent in a registered cover.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative. In this connection the member is referred to the answer given to clause (*i*) of the starred question No. IX asked by Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy at the meeting of the Council held on the 21st February, 1921.

Dredging scheme regarding East Bengal rivers.

49. Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the dredging scheme prepared by Rai Shailendra Nath Banarji Bahadur, Executive Engineer, Dacca, regarding East Bengal rivers?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The schemes prepared by Rai Shailendra Nath Banarji Bahadur, Executive Engineer, regarding the East Bengal rivers are under consideration and cannot therefore be placed on the table at present.

Connecting Dacca and Goalundo by a light railway.

50. Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state what the distance is of Dacca from Goalundo by land and water, respectively, and if the distance by land is shorter, why a project to construct a light railway has not been encouraged?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): The distance from Dacca to Goalundo *via* Aricha (on the left bank of Padma river opposite Goalundo) by land route is 55 miles (including 10 miles by river). The distance by the mail steamer route from Dacca to Goalundo is 101 miles (including 10 miles by rail from Dacca to Narayanganj). The distance by water by the Buriganga, Dhalleswari, Meghna and Padma rivers *via* Rajabari is about 96 miles. In regard to the construction of a railway from Dacca to Goalundo the member is referred to the information contained in the reply to unstarred question No. 7 put by Babu Brojendra Kishor Ray Chaudhuri at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 7th April, 1920, and to the Government of Bengal, Public Works Department, resolution No. 1316 R.,* dated the 16th November, 1920, a copy of which is laid on the library table.

The report of the Committee has not yet been received.

Silting up of waterways in Dacca and inconvenience of trade and commerce.

51. Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation aware of the fact that the canals and the other waterways in the district of Dacca are silting up and that this is causing inconvenience to the expansion of trade and commerce? (*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what steps, if any, are contemplated to obviate this danger to trade and commerce?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) It is known to Government that a very large number of canals and other waterways in the Dacca as also other districts in the deltaic tracts are silting up, causing inconvenience to the expansion of trade and commerce in cases.

*Not printed in these Proceedings

(*b*) It is a very large question which cannot be successfully tackled ith the staff, funds and dredging machinery at the disposal of the overnment at the present time. Important routes in the province have ›en declared under the Canals Act, No. 5 of 1864, and these channels 'e maintained and improved as far as feasible.

Leprosy in Bankura.

52. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the inister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware at the number of lepers in the district of Bankura has increased since e last census by at least 50 per cent., according to a rough calculation ade by Mr. J. Vas, I.C.S., who was in charge of the district recently?

(*b*) What steps have been taken to check the progress of this disease?

(*c*) What is the sum, if any, granted to the authorities of the Leper ›ylum in Bankura?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) Govern-ent are aware that Mr. Vas estimated last year that there were 4,600 pers in the district of Bankura, whereas the number recorded at the nsus of 1911 was 2,645.

(*b*) The action taken by Government in regard to leprosy will be ›parent from the following remarks recorded in this Government solution dated the 7th December, 1920, on the triennial report on the ›rking of hospitals and dispensaries in Bengal for the years 1917, 18 and 1919:—

"*Leprosy.*—This disease is treated chiefly in the three leper asylums Gobra, Raniganj and Bankura. The first is maintained by Govern-ent, while the other two are under the Mission to Lepers helped by ›vernment. The scale of capitation grants paid from provincial venues for adult lepers treated in the last two asylums was raised from ›. 1-8 to Rs. 4 per head per mensem, with effect from April, 1919, and ıt for the untainted children of lepers to Rs. 2 per child. The Gobra ›per Asylum had an annual average population of 396, while the popula-›n at the Raniganj and Bankura asylums averaged 317 and 176 a year, ›pectively.

The Lepers Act has been amended so as to widen the definition of a ıtutory leper. The arrangements at present existing in the leper ›lums are not up to date, while the accommodation provided therein is ›o insufficient. A more satisfactory way of dealing with the problem to open large leper colonies or settlements, and the question of ıablishing a leper colony is engaging the attention of Government. e difficulty will be mainly financial."

(*c*) The grant for the year 1920 amounted to Rs. 7,296.

Recruitment of depressed classes in Government service.

53. Babu BHISHMADEV DAS: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department aware of the Resolution of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, No. 1769-C., dated the 15th February, 1907, on the question of the employment of Muhammadans in Eastern Bengal and Assam in which reference was also made to the employment of important castes of Hindus other than those usually employed in Government offices?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware of the deputation on behalf of one of these communities, namely the Namasudra community, which waited upon Their Excellencies Baron Carmichael in July, 1912, and the Earl of Ronaldshay in July, 1917, and their replies with regard to the State patronage to be extended to the members of these communities?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the number of people belonging to the backward (depressed) classes comes to a figure of about ten millions, *i.e.*, about half of the total Hindu population of Bengal?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to say what steps the Government are taking to carry out the wishes of Their Excellencies and the spirit of the resolution referred to above?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of issuing instructions in this matter to those responsible for recruitment?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The policy of Government was explained by His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay in July, 1917, to a deputation of the Namasudra community in the following terms:—

"The Government desires to make no distinction between one caste and another; between one creed and another; that is, the Government is prepared so far as patronage is concerned, to give equal opportunities to the members of all communities who prove themselves competent, and you may rest assured that Government will consider not only fairly, but also sympathetically, the claims of such members of your community as have proved themselves competent."

(*c*) Estimates of the number of people belonging to the backward or depressed classes vary according to the classes which are accepted as falling within this category; but the number is generally taken to be some 7 or 8 millions in Bengal.

(*d*) The policy of Government as outlined above is known to those responsible for recruitment; for instance, one member of the Mahishya and one of the Namasudra community were recently appointed to the Subordinate Civil Service.

(*e*) Government do not consider that it is necessary to issue any further instructions.

Works of river improvement.

54. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state what works of river improvement have been undertaken and completed during the last four years?

(*b*) What dredging operations are now in progress in the rivers in the Dacca Division?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) Works in regard to river improvement which have been undertaken during the last four years by the Irrigation Department are as follows:—

1917.

(*1*) Improvement of the Gabkhan Burhani Khal in the Bakarganj district.

(*2*) Silt clearance of the Manikdah entrance channel or the western approach to the Madaripur Bil Route.

(*3*) Dredging shoals in the river Madhumati at Girishnagar on the inland steamer route.

(*4*) Improvement of the Lower Kumar river at Charmaguria the eastern approach of the Madaripur Bil Route.

(*5*) Removing shoals in the Nurea channel at Jobsa, another eastern steamer approach to the Madaripur Bil Route.

(*6*) Easing bends between Futteypur and Takerhat in the Madaripur Bil Route.

(*7*) Dredging shoals in the river Attarabanka between its off-take with the Madhumati and Sachiada on the steamer route between Khulna and Barisal. For these works both the suction dredgers *Foyers* and *Alexandra* were employed.

1918.

(*1*) Silt clearance of the Manikdah entrance channel.

(*2*) Improvement of the Gahkhan Burhani Khal in the Bakarganj district, continued and completed.

(*3*) Easing bends between Futteypur and Takerhat in the Madaripur Bil Route.

(*4*) Dredging sidings along the Madaripur Bil Route.

(*5*) Dredging shoals in the Dhalleswari river, Dacca district.

(*6*) Dredging the deteriorated portions of the channel in the Madaripur Bil Route near Olpur.

(*7*) Improving the Lower Kumar river at Charmaguria.

(*8*) Dredging the shallow portions of the Madhumati river between Patgate and Girishnagar on the inland steamer route.

1919.

(*1*) Dredging shoals in the Attarabanka river between its off-take from the Madhumati and Sachiada on the inland steamer route between Khulna and Barisal.

(*2*) Commencing the work of widening and deepening the Madaripur Bil Route as sanctioned by the Secretary of State.

(*3*) Dredging shoals in the Madhumati river or the inland steamer route.

(*4*) Continuing the work of easing bends between Futteypur and Takerhat and excavating sidings in the Madaripur Bil Route.

1920.

(*1*) Continuing the work of widening and deepening the Madaripur Bil Route.

(*2*) Dredging the western end of the Doagra channel in the Sunderbans steamer route 24-Parganas.

(*3*) Dredging shoals in the Attarabanka river.

(*4*) Improving the Lower Kumar river.

Besides the above original and maintenance works carried out by the suction dredgers, training works were annually undertaken in the following rivers to improve and deepen the dry weather steamer and boat channels:—The Dhalleswari and Buriganga rivers, the entrance to the Bhagirati and the Ganges river at Rampur Boalia, and between Rajmehal and Goalundo.

(*b*) The dredger *Alexandra* is now working in the Faridpur district in the Dacca Division, in opening out a new outlet at the western end of the Madaripur Bil Route.

Improvement of sanitation in Hooghly and Howrah.

55. Babu FANINDRALAL DE: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amount allotted by the District Boards of Howrah and Hooghly from their current year's budget for the improvement of sanitation in their respective districts and showing also what amount has been spent up to this time out of the allotted amount on the above head and on what items

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 55.

Name of District Board.	Amount allotted for the improvement of sanitation.	Amount spent up to 31st January, 1921.			Items on which spent.
	Rs	Rs.	A	P	
Howrah ..	13,745 (*a*)	6,697	10	6	1. Vaccination establishment. 2 Health Officer's charges. 3 Drainage and contingencies.
Hooghly ...	42,800	12,896	0	0	1. Entertainment of Health Officer and peripatetic medical officers. 2. Improvement of village sanitation by drainage and clearing of jungle. 3. Improvement of water supply.

(*a*) This includes Rs. 1,029-9-5, the Government contribution to the pay of the District Health Officer, but excludes Rs. 4,767 which was allotted on account of an anti-cholera campaign, in addition to a Government grant of Rs 3,033 made for the purpose.

Areas under rice, sugarcane and cotton cultivation.

56. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*1*) the percentage of annual increase in acres of the area under, and

(*2*) the yearly variation in outturn per acre of—

(*i*) rice;

(*ii*) sugarcane; and

(*iii*) cotton;

since the organisation of the Agricultural Department under the Director of Agriculture?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: A statement showing the area in acres under—

(*1*) rice;

(*2*) sugarcane; and

(*3*) cotton;

and the outturn per acre of these crops in each year since the organization of the Agricultural Department under a Director of Agriculture is laid on the table. The question assumes that there is an annual increase of the area under these crops, but, as the statement shows, this is not the case. It is therefore impossible to give the percentage of annual increase in the area.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 56.

	AREA IN ACRES.			OUTTURN PER ACRE.		
	Rice.	Sugarcane.	Cotton.	Rice (tons).	Sugarcane (tons).	Cotton (bales).
1906-07 ...	20,484,700	265,300	50,900	0·36	1·02	0·21
1907-08 ...	19,987,900	245,000	51,000	0·36	0·98	0·32
1908-09 ...	19,722,200	229,800	61,500	0·48	0·87	0·25
1909-10 ...	20,855,100	230,700	62,100	0·47	1·05	0·17
1910-11 ...	20,933,000	224,200	62,900	0·46	1·06	0·28
1911-12 ...	20,437,000	223,300	63,000	0·42	1·15	0·40
1912-13 ...	20,639,000	221,800	51,000	0·40	1·19	0·41
1913-14 ...	19,846,000	218,300	87,000	0·37	1·12	0·28
1914-15 ...	20,450,000	233,400	90,000	0·31	1·07	0·38

	Area in acres.			Outturn per acre.		
	Rice.	Sugarcane.	Cotton.	Rice (tons).	Sugarcane (tons).	Cotton (bales).
1915-16 ...	20,916,000	231,000	88,000	0·40	1·11	0·34
1916-17 ...	21,120,000	203,600	73,000	0·38	1·04	0·27
1917-18 ...	20,966,000	207,400	71,000	0·42	1·16	0·27
1918-19 ...	21,332,100	219,000	73,000	0·33	1·02	0·43
1919-20 ...	20,940,000	217,900	68,900	0·39	1·17	0·36
1920-21 ...	20,880,600	218,800	70,100	0·39	1·16	0·30

1 ton = 27½ maunds.
1 bale = 5 ,,

Fee on the value of a holding for mutation of the names of transferees in the Midnapore district.

57. Babu SARAT CHANDRA JANAH: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have issued a circular recently instructing the authorities in charge of the Khas Mahal Department of Midnapore to realise a fee of 25 per cent. on the value of a holding, as a premium for mutation of the names of transferees?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware of the fact that no such premium was ever paid or demanded in the zamindaries of Basudebpur, Jalamutha and Majnamutha estates, which have now been incorporated in the Khas Mahal, at any time since their creation?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) No special circular has been issued to the Khas Mahal authorities of Midnapore. Under clause (7) of rule 156 A of the Government Estates Manual, a fee of 25 per cent. of the value of a holding is to be levied on transfers by sales in estates under the direct management of Government in which the free right of transfer has not been recognised.

(*b*) No; the applicability of the rule mentioned above to the Jalamutha and Majnamutha estates is under consideration. The Basudebpur estate is under the Court of Wards.

Proportion of Muhammadan educational officers.

58. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state the subdivisions and districts of Bengal where the Muhammadan population is more than 50 per cent.?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the number of Muhammadan sub-inspectors, deputy-inspectors and district deputy-inspectors of schools in Bengal?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the percentage of Muhammadan sub-inspectors, deputy-inspectors and district deputy-inspectors of schools in Bengal?

(*d*) Is there any Government circular to the effect that Muhammadan educational officers should be posted in places where Muhammadans predominate?

(*e*) If so, is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the circular is not generally given effect to in spite of repeated representations from Meslem associations, to the educational authorities for posting Muhammadan officers?

(*f*) Is it a fact that the Muhammadan population of Patuakhali subdivision is about 85 per cent.?

(*g*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the number of educational officers in Patuakhali with their race and rank?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) Muhammadan sub-inspectors of schools 118, Muhammadan deputy-inspectors of schools 17, Muhammadan district deputy-inspectors of schools 11.

(*c*) Muhammadan sub-inspectors of schools, 44 per cent., Muhammadan deputy-inspectors of schools, 36·2 per cent., Muhammadan district deputy-inspectors of schools, 39·3 per cent.

(*d*) No. The reference is probably to Government of Bengal Resolution No. 1227 Edu., dated 3rd August, 1916, paragraph 10, the general tenor of which is to the effect that it is the policy of Government to employ Muhammadan educational officers in places where Muhammadans predominate, subject to the interests of the service and those of efficiency.

(*e*) The policy of Government as laid down in the resolution is followed by the Education Department in making its appointments.

(*f*) In the Patuakhali subdivision the Muhammadans constitute 83 per cent. of the total population.

(*g*) There are 6 officers stationed at Patuakhali, viz., 1 deputy-inspector of schools and 5 sub-inspectors of schools. The deputy-inspector and one sub-inspector are Hindus. The 4 remaining sub-inspectors are Muhammadans.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 58 (a), showing the names of districts and subdivisions in Bengal in which the Muhammadan population is more than 50 per cent.

DISTRICTS

1. Nadia.
2. Murshidabad.
3. Jessore.
4. Khulna.
5. Rajshahi.
6. Rangpur.
7. Bogra.
8. Pabna.
9. Malda.
10. Dacca.
11. Mymensingh.
12. Faridpur.
13. Bakarganj.
14. Tippera.
15. Noakhali
16. Chittagong.

SUBDIVISIONS.

1. Barasat.
2. Kustia.
3. Meherpur.
4. Chuadanga
5. Nadia Sadar.
6. Murshidabad Sadar.
7. Jangipur.
8. Jhenida.
9. Magura.
10. Jessore Sadar.
11. Narail.
12. Bongaon.
13. Satkhira.
14. Bagerhat
15. Rajshahi Sadar.
16. Naogaon.
17. Natore.
18. Thakurgaon.
19. Rangpur Sadar.
20. Nilphamari.
21. Kurigram.
22. Gaibandha.
23. Pabna Sadar.
24. Serajganj.
25. Dacca Sadar.
26. Narainganj.
27. Munshiganj.
28. Manikganj
29. Mymensingh Sadar
30. Netrokona.
31. Jamalpur.
32. Tangail.
33. Kishorganj
34. Faridpur Sadar.
35. Goalundo.
36. Madaripur.
37. Bakarganj Sadar.
38. Perojpur.
39. Patuakhali.
40. Dakhin Sabazpur.
41. Tippera Sadar.
42. Brahmanbaria.
43. Chandpur.
44. Noakhali Sadar.
45. Feni.
46. Chittagong
47. Cox's Bazar.

Bengal Civil Service and the officiating Munsifs.

59. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) when the scheme for appointing probationers to the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial) is likely to be given effect to?

(*ii*) what is the number of officiating Munsifs at present?

(*iii*) whether the existing cadre of the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial) will be strengthened? If so, by how many?

(*iv*) whether all the existing officiating Munsifs will be amalgamated into the cadre?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*i*) The matter is under consideration and no definite statement can be made at present.

(*ii*) Sixty-eight.

(*iii*) Yes; it has been proposed to the Government of India that the cadre of the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial) should be increased by 5 subordinate Judges and 40 Munsifs.

(*iv*) Yes.

Grand Trunk Canal project.

60. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to lay on the table all the correspondence with the Government of India relating to, and resulting in, the sanction of the Grand Trunk Canal project and the final selection of the present alignment?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether it is under contemplation to extend the northern limits of the town of Calcutta up to the Grand Trunk Canal?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) This Government regret they are unable to lay the papers on the table.

(*b*) The reply is in the negative.

Removal of Secretariat Press to Gopalnagar and inconvenience of press employees.

61. Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance aware of the fact that 99 per cent. of the employees of the Bengal Secretariat Press will be seriously inconvenienced by the removal of the Press from Writers' Buildings to Gopalnagar, Chetla, 24-Parganas?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that Gopalnagar is a malarious place?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that almost all the employees of the Bengal Secretariat Press, both salaried and piece-hands, are residing at Sham Bazar, Bagh Bazar, Kumartuli, Barnagore, Tala, Jorasanko, Sukea Street, Champatalla, Bow Bazar, Intally, Garpar, Narikeldanga, Salkea, Sibpur, Howrah, or Ramkrishnapur, and that the rest are daily-passengers on the East Indian, Eastern Bengal and Martin Railways?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware of the difficulty that will be experienced by the employees who will have to attend to their duties in Gopalnagar at 9 A.M. every day throughout the year? Is it the intention of Government to provide special conveyances for those men who live at long distances?

(*e*) Have the Government considered whether the expeditious printing of urgent and important Government work will suffer owing to the removal of the Press to Gopalnagar?

(*f*) Are the Government considering the desirability of reviewing the question of the removal with a view to cancelling the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: (*a*) and (*c*) A certain amount of inconvenience will be caused to employees living in the north of and outside Calcutta by the transfer of the Press, but the site selected is the most suitable that can be found.

(*b*) Gopalnagar is not a specially malarious place. In 1918 and 1919 the proportion of fever cases attending Chetla Dispensary was 14 per cent. as compared with 25 per cent. for the rest of Bengal. The whole of the site for the new Press is being raised well above the road level and will be high and dry.

(*d*) Whatever site is selected, some inconvenience is certain to be caused to some of the Press employees. It is not Government's intention to provide special conveyances for men who live at long distances from the Press.

(*e*) Arrangements are being made to keep in constant touch with the Secretariat. The existing division of the Press into branches at Writers' Buildings and Sealdah causes more delay than the removal of the Press to Chetla will entail. The location of the Press in one building designed as a printing office will expedite work.

(*f*) The construction of a new Press at Chetla was forced on Government owing to the insanitary conditions under which the employees work in the present buildings. The new Press building has advanced so far that there can be no question of cancelling the move.

Printing Department and the regulation of the lines for the residence of workmen.

62. Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state whether the Printing Department comes under the Civil Service Department or under the Factories Act?

(*b*) What is the arrangement with regard to the same in England?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state as to whether the lines for the residence of workmen that come under the Factories Act are strictly regulated in connection with the provisions made in the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: (*a*) Service in the Printing Department is regulated by the Civil Service Regulations. The working of the Presses is regulated by the Indian Factories Act.

(*b*) Printing presses in England come under the Factories Act in the same manner as other non-textile factories.

(*c*) Lines for the residence of workmen, if situated inside a factory compound, come under the Factories Act in regard to sanitary matters only.

Improvement of rivers in the Jessore drainage division.

63. Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state what steps have been taken in connection with the improvement of the rivers in the Jessore Drainage Division?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The statement below shows the action taken in connection with the improvement of rivers investigated by the Jessore Drainage Division (Temporary) which was formed in September, 1912, and abolished in September, 1916.

Rivers and channels investigated by the Temporary Jessore Division.	*Stage at which the projects stand at the end of January, 1921.*
(1) Hallifax cut ...	(1) Gauge readings have been recorded; no work is proposed at present in this connection.
(2) Bhairab ...	(2) Surveys and borings are in progress for the preparation of a project.
(3) Benta-Kodla ...	(3) Surveys still in progress.
(4) Jhenida basin ...	(4) Surveys have just commenced in order to ascertain the levels of the basin.
(5) Harihar and Muktesari	(5) Boring investigations are in progress.
(6) Arogi Bil ...	(6) Project revised and work undertaken Sinking wells for the sluice completed and work in channels about to start.
(7) Jaboona .	(7) Excavating channels in progress in Section II; Section I—the estimate is being revised.
(8) Kahganga ...	In regard to these sufficient hydraulic data have not yet been collected to enable the Irrigation Department to evolve schemes of improvement.
(9) Navaganga	
(10) Katki and Bena ...	
(11) Chitra ...	
(12) Kobadak ...	
(13) Ichamatti and Distributaries .	
(14) Gorai or Madhumati ...	

(8) to (14) Owing to depleted staff, work will take some time to materialise.

Charitable Dispensaries and supply of quinine thereto.

64. Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many charitable dispensaries in each district are maintained by the district board and the municipalities;

(*ii*) how many again are maintained in each district by private charity;

(*iii*) how many again are maintained in each district partly by private charity and partly with the aid from the district board or the municipalities in each district;

(*iv*) what amounts are being spent by Government in each district outside Calcutta for medical arrangements and relief,

(*v*) what amounts again are being spent by Government for medical arrangements and relief in Calcutta;

(*vi*) how many thanas in each district have dispensaries and how many have not;

(*vii*) what the population is in each of these thanas either having or not having such a dispensary;

(*viii*) what the probable additional cost would be if additional dispensaries are to be started to meet the requirements of the situation;

(*ix*) what steps the Government have taken or are going to take to start such additional dispensaries;

(*x*) what amount the Government would be prepared to contribute to meet this problem;

(*xi*) in which of the districts the death-rate is higher than the birth-rate, and what the ratio is of the death-rate to the birth-rate,

(*xii*) whether it is a fact that the supply of quinine in the existing dispensaries is absolutely inadequate and, if so, is it due to the abnormal rise of the price of quinine, and

(*xiii*) what the reason is of such rise in the price of quinine and what steps the Government are contemplating to bring down the price of quinine?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*i*), (*ii*), (*iii*), and (*iv*) A statement (A) is laid on the table.

(*v*) Rupees 24,53,641 was spent by Government during the year 1919.

(*vi*) and (*vii*) A statement (B) is laid on the library table.

(*viii*) The average cost of a dispensary roughly amounts to—

Initial cost—

For expensive districts, Rs. 6,244.
For cheap districts, Rs. 4,783.

Recurring cost, Rs. 2,026 a year.

(*ix*) and (*x*) The member is referred to the answer given to clause (*b*) of unstarred question No. 14 asked by Babu Jogendra Nath Roy at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 21st February, 1921.

In addition to the usual annual grants made by Government to hospitals and dispensaries the sum of Rs. 15,000 has been provided in the next year's Budget for grants to mufassal dispensaries.

(*xi*) A statement (C) is laid on the table.

(*xii*) It is a fact that the quantity of quinine administered at the majority of dispensaries is not adequate for the proper treatment of the malaria cases admitted. This is attributed to three main causes, viz., the meagre funds at the disposal of dispensary committees, the high price of quinine and patients' reluctance to continue the treatment once the fever is stopped. The failure to give effective doses of quinine is no new feature. It was noticeable when the price of quinine was much lower, but the rise in price has naturally made it more difficult to supply adequate amounts.

(*xiii*) It is due to an increase in the market rates for quinine outside India and to the fall in the rupee exchange, and these are causes over which this Government have no control.

STATEMENT A.

Statement referred to in reply to unstarred questions Nos. 64 (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv).

Serial number.	Districts.	Question (i).			Question (ii).	Question (iii)	Question (iv).
		Municipal dispensaries.	District Board dispensaries.	Total	Private non-aided dispensaries.	Private aided dispensaries.	Amounts spent by Government for medical arrangements and relief during the year 1919.
							Rs.
1	Burdwan ...	4	18	22	9	2	5,540
2	Birbhum ...	...	6	6	3	4	418
3	Bankura ...	3	6	9	1	3	10,753
4	Midnapore ...	7	2	9	5	10	11,322
5	Hooghly ...	6	11	17	23	3	9,939
6	Howrah ...	3	6	9	...	1	679
7	24-Parganas ...	22	20	42	3	5	6,611
8	Nadia ...	9	9	18	10	4	2,581
9	Murshidabad ...	6	6	12	10	...	4,691

Serial number.	Districts.	Question (i). Municipal dispensaries.	Question (i). District Board dispensaries.	Question (i). Total.	Question (ii). Private non-aided dispensaries.	Question (iii). Private aided dispensaries.	Question (iv). Amounts spent by Government for medical arrangements and relief during the year 1919.
							Rs.
10	Jessore ...	3	11	14	3	6	4,483
11	Khulna ...	2	20	22	2	1	4,693
12	Dacca ...	1	20	21	11	5	21,805
13	Mymensingh ...	6	25	31	17	4	4,968
14	Faridpur ...	2	15	17	2	7	10,790
15	Bakarganj ...	5	26	31	...	2	8,551
16	Chittagong ...	1	15	16	...	1	9,590
17	Noakhali ...	1	15	16	1	..	5,269
18	Tippera ...	4	17	21	10	1	3,454
19	Chittagong Hill Tracts.	..	.	..	1	..	12,798
20	Rajshahi ..	2	13	15	11	2	7,736
21	Dinajpur ...	1	14	15	5	4	4,076
22	Jalpaiguri ...	1	3	4	2	8	7,252
23	Rangpur ...	2	27	29	9	3	8,608
24	Bogra ...	2	12	14	2	1	3,264
25	Pabna ...	2	3	5	3	8	9,323
26	Malda ...	3	6	9	5	2	956
27	Darjeeling ...	2	2*	4*	6	2	19,422

* Darjeeling Improvement Trust.

STATEMENT C.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 64 (xi), showing the names of the districts in which the death-rate is higher than the birth-rate during the year 1919.

No.	DISTRICT.	Birth-rate per 1,000 of population.	Death-rate per 1,000 of population.	Difference (excess of deaths).
1	Burdwan	21·2	50·5	29·3
2	Birbhum	23·7	62·3	38·6
3	Bankura	25·0	36·5	11·5
4	Midnapore	24·2	40·1	15·9
5	Hooghly	21·5	36·1	14·6
6	Howrah	27·0	35·1	8·1
7	24-Parganas	22·5	33·4	10·9
8	Calcutta	18·5	42·2	23·7
9	Nadia	25·6	43·0	17·4
10	Murshidabad	28·9	47·3	18·4
11	Jessore	21·0	30·2	9·2
12	Khulna	27·8	41·2	13·4
13	Rajshahi	32·8	41·5	8·7
14	Dinajpur	31·6	43·7	12·1
15	Jalpaiguri	32·4	42·6	10·2
16	Darjeeling	30·0	48·4	18·4
17	Rangpur	32·4	33·4	1·0
18	Pabna	25·7	36·1	10·4
19	Malda	30·5	39·0	8·5
20	Mymensingh	27·3	27·7	·4
21	Bakarganj	29·8	34·7	4·9
22	Chittagong	30·3	41·4	11·1
23	Noakhali	32·8	33·4	·6
24	Tippera	27·8	29·4	1·6

Enumerators for census operations.

65. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue be pleased to state on what principle enumerators have been or are being recruited for census operations within the town of Calcutta and other parts of Bengal?

(*b*) What are the grounds, if any, on which exemption is granted?

(*c*) Is it a fact that enumerators are appointed without first ascertaining whether they have the time and the inclination to serve as such?

(*d*) Is it a fact that for the purpose of the census work appointments have been made in total disregard of the conveniences or inconveniences of persons so appointed in many instances?

(*e*) Does the Government approve of the policy of compelling the services of persons as enumerators who are unwilling or unable to serve as such?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) In rural areas in Bengal census enumerators were selected by the Charge Superintendent, a Government official, ordinarily on the recommendations of president panchayats and other men of local influence who were chosen to be supervisors. In mufassal municipalities the census enumeration is in the hands of the Municipal authorities who made the selection. In Calcutta it was anticipated that it would not be easy to obtain the services of enumerators. Accordingly the preliminary arrangements for house-numbering and demarcation of blocks was done by a paid staff. In November last a circular was issued to Government, mercantile and other offices asking for lists of volunteers from among their staff for employment as enumerators. These lists were the basis of the selection, but the number of volunteers from other than Government offices was disappointing. The persons who had volunteered were appointed and were asked to bring in others to help as far as they could

(*b*) The Special Census Officer in Calcutta aims at relieving any enumerator who has stated his unwillingness to work and has relieved every one who has any physical disability to do it. The extent to which this has been carried out may be gauged from the fact that more letters of appointment of enumerators have been cancelled than the total number of the enumerators required In other parts of Bengal the services of willing volunteers have generally been obtained with little difficulty.

(*c*) Enumerators have not been appointed whose names were not in lists of volunteers received from various sources. It has been presumed when their names appeared in lists sent from Government and other offices that they had the time to do the work.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative

(*e*) Under section 10 of the Census Act (IV of 1920) it is an offence if a person appointed to be an enumerator refuses or neglects to use reasonable diligence in performing the duty imposed upon him; but it

is the policy of Government not to use this power of compulsion except in the rare cases in which it is necessary to compel the services of enumerators in order to complete the work of enumeration.

Applications for grants from High English Schools.

66. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether there were any applications for capital and recurring grants from High English Schools during the current year?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing how many such applications were received and how they were disposed of?

DEPUTY SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (Mr. W. W. Hornell): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A statement of the applications for capital grants, together with a brief statement of the action taken on each, is laid on the table. This contains all the applications received in the Director of Public Instruction's office during the financial year up to February 28th, 1921.

As Inspectors of Schools are competent to sanction petty cases up to Rs. 500, the list contains only major cases of capital grant applications.

Recurring grants are also sanctioned by the Inspectors and the information required on this head is not therefore readily available in the Director of Public Instruction's office. A supplementary statement will be laid on the table when the necessary information has been collected for subordinate offices.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 66 (b), showing applications for capital grants from High English Schools during 1920-21 received in the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

Serial No.	Name of school and nature of project.	Amount of grant applied for.	Amount of grant recommended	REMARKS
		Rs.	Rs.	
1	Sijgram-Hossanabad High English School, district Murshidabad. New school building.	6,003	5,329	Additional grant, original sanctioned grant being Rs 10,000. As funds are not available in 1920-21, the case will be considered in 1921-22; but the additional grant, if any is given, will exceed half the additional cost, the balance being met from local contributions.

Serial No	Name of school and nature of project.	Amount of grant applied for.	Amount of grant recommended	REMARKS
		Rs.	Rs.	
2	Sitakund High School, district Chittagong. New school building	16,650	16,650	The case was received in a complete form in February, 1921. Held up for consideration next year.
3	Victoria High English School, Comilla, district Tippera. Acquisition of land and construction of new school building	27,050	27,050	Awaiting further report regarding site
4	Islam Institution, Faridpur. Buildings, library and furniture.	9,337	9,337	Additional building grant of Rs 5,032 is to be recommended to Government in 1921-22. Original sanctioned grant was Rs 35,138. As funds are not available, library and furniture grants will be considered in 1921-22
5	Dinajpur High School. New building.	11,114	11,114	Additional grants. Original sanctioned grant was Rs 30,000. As funds are not available in 1920-21, the case will be submitted to Government in 1921-22
6	Karapara High English School. New school building.	20,560	20,560	As no funds are available in 1920-21, the case will be considered in 1921-22, but it is more likely to be successful if the local contribution is increased to two-thirds of the cost.
7	St Anthony's School, Calcutta. Additional building.	45,000	45,000	A grant of Rs 30,000 has been recommended to Government—Rs 15,000 to be paid in 1920-21 and Rs 15,000 in 1921-22.
8	Bagerhat High English School, district Khulna. Additional block	6,402	6,402	As funds are not available in 1920-21, the case will be considered in 1921-22.
9	Ranaghat High English School, district Nadia.	...	...	Rupees 12,000 promised, but approved plans and estimate have not yet been received.
10	Mugkalyan High English School, district Howrah. Hostel building.	3,905	3,905	To be considered in 1921-22, as no funds are available in 1920-21.

Serial No.	Name of school and nature of project.	Amount of grant applied for.	Amount of grant recommended.	REMARKS.
		Rs	Rs.	
11	Mirpur Sidhanta High English School, district Dacca Additional school building	8,000	8,000	Rupees 4,000 will be paid this year (1920-21) if possible.
12	Gusta High English School, 24-Parganas. Additional class rooms.	1,642	1,000	To be considered in 1921-22, as funds are not available in 1920 21.
13	Nimitita G. D. Institution, district Murshidabad Muhammadan hostel.	5,147	5,147	To be considered in 1921-22, as funds are not available in 1920-21.
14	Jangipur High English School, district Murshidabad Additional class rooms	2,648	2,648	No funds are available in 1920-21 ; to be paid in 1921-22.
15	Dhandia High English School, district Khulna Completion of the school building.	1,000	1,000	Approved plans and estimates are awaited.
16	Akrurmam Coronation High English School, district Malda. School building	5,000	...	Inspector's opinion (with approved plans and estimates) is awaited.
17	Daulatpur High English School, district Khulna. School and hostel buildings.	12,902	6,451	The Inspector of Schools has been told that the case may be proceeded with on the basis of a local contribution of two-thirds of the cost.
18	St Paul's High English School, Calcutta Improvement of latrines.	...*	1,700	One-third of the cost has been sanctioned
19	Chandpur Hasanali Jubilee School, district Tippera. School building.	7,356	7,356	As no funds are available in 1920-21, the case will be considered in 1921-22 if the school authorities contribute two-thirds of the cost.
20	Dainhat High English School, district Burdwan. School building	2,500	2,500	Additional grant. To be paid in 1920-21 if funds are available ; otherwise next year.
21	Cheora High English School, district Tippera. Improvement of school building.	7,165	7,165	The case will be considered in 1921-22 if received in a complete form

* Amount not mentioned.

Allotment for the maintenance and improvement of private colleges.

67. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to make a statement showing for the last ten years the amounts allotted by the Government of Bengal and grants paid from the Imperial allotments for each of the last ten years towards—

(*a*) the maintenance of private colleges; and

(*b*) improvement of their buildings and equipment?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 67.

YEAR	Government contribution for the *maintenance* of private colleges	Grants paid from Imperial allotments for *buildings* and *equipment* to private colleges
	Rs.	Rs.
1910-11	64,986*	41,000
1911-12	74,450	89,000
1912-13	85,041	3,01,200
1913-14	99,247	2,31,000
1914-15	1,42,816	5,70,398
1915-16	1,45,933	2,00,000
1916-17	1,47,493	3,500
1917-18	1,72,635	91,136
1918-19	1,73,997	2,30,000
1919-20	1,79,182	1,20,400

* Represents expenditure for the province as it was then constituted

Passed medical students and their recruitment to Government service.

68. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to furnish a statement, for each of the last 10 years, showing the number of passed students of medical schools and the percentage of their temporary and permanent recruitment into Government service?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: Two statements are laid on the table.

STATEMENT A.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 68, showing the number of students passed and recruited into Government service from the Campbell Medical School and the percentage of their recruitment.

YEAR.	PASSED FINAL EXAMINATION.			RECRUITED INTO GOVERNMENT SERVICE.		PERCENTAGE.	
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Temporary	Permanent.	Permanent.	Temporary.
1910-11 ...	30	2	32	...	6	18·75	...
1911-12 ...	34	2	36	...	6	16·66	...
1912-13 ...	52	2	54	6	2	3·7	11·11
1913-14 ...	45	2	47	...	5	10·64	...
1914-15 ...	52	1	53	...	4	7·54	...
1915-16 ...	55	2	57	7	1	1·75	12·18
1916-17 ...	73	7	80	2	3	3·75	2·5
1917-18 ...	52	1	53	20	...	...	37·73
1918-19 ...	70	2	72	20	2	2·77	27·77
1919-20 ...	81	3	84	2	...	...	2·38

STATEMENT B.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 68, showing the number of students passed and recruited into Government service from the Dacca Medical School and the percentage of their recruitment.

YEAR.	PASSED FINAL EXAMINATION.			RECRUITED INTO GOVERNMENT SERVICE.		PERCENTAGE.	
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Permanent.	Temporary.	Permanent.	Temporary.
1910-11 ...	42	...	42	3	...	7·14	...
1911-12 ...	41	...	41	6	...	14·63	...

Year.	Passed Final Examination.			Recruited into Government service		Percentage	
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Permanent.	Temporary	Permanent.	Temporary.
1912-13 ...	35	1	36	7	...	19·44	...
1913-14 ...	30	1	31	3	...	9·67	...
1914-15 ...	40	2	42	6	...	14·28	...
1915-16 ...	37	1	38	13	...	34·21	...
1916-17 ...	38	1	39	5	14	12·82	35·89
1917-18 ...	36	...	36	8	19	22·22	52·77
1918-19 ...	64	1	65	1	18	1·53	27·69
1919-20 ...	44	..	44	2	3	4·54	6·81

Cadastral Survey.

69. Babu NALINI NATH ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state the objects that they had in view in commencing the cadastral survey of this province?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a list showing the districts in which survey has been completed and also those in which the work has yet to be commenced?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table an account showing the expenditure that has been incurred in this connection in each of the districts in which the work has been completed?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether they had the following objects in view viz.:—

(*i*) settlement and reduction of agrarian disputes, both civil and criminal;

(*ii*) enhancement of cesses;

(*iii*) detection and demarcation of Government khas lands;

(*iv*) conversion of rents in kind into money rents; and

(*v*) teaching the tenants their rights and privileges.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) It is assumed that the question refers to survey and settlement operations, and not merely to the cadastral survey stage of those operations. The objects which Government had in view in 1903 in undertaking survey and settlement operations, were as follows:—

(1) the protection of the rights of the raiyats and the interests of the landlords, by giving them an accurate account of their landed interests,

(2) the prevention of agrarian disputes; and

(3) the preparation of maps, records and statistics useful alike the people and the officers of Government employed on di trict administration.

(*b*) and (*c*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*d*) The objects are stated in the reply to (*a*).

List referred to in unstarred questions Nos. 69 (b) and (c) showing t districts in which cadastral survey has been completed and t expenditure incurred in each district and also the districts in whi the work has yet to be commenced.

Names of districts in which cadastral survey has been completed.	Total cost of survey and settlement
	Rs.
Chittagong	16,16,604
Bakarganj	28,33,251
Faridpur	32,22,609
Jalpaiguri	19,67,689
Dacca	27,03,188
Midnapore	33,30,181
Mymensingh	46,64,321
Tippera and Noakhali	25,07,379
Rajshahi	33,19,389

Names of districts in which the cadastral survey has yet to l commenced—

Khulna, Murshidabad, Birbhum, Hooghly, Howrah, Burdwa (excluding Asansol subdivision), Rangpur, 24-Parganas, Dinajpi and Malda.

Cadastral survey is now being made in the following districts :—

Bankura (including Asansol subdivision of Burdwan), Jessor Nadia, Pabna and Bogra.

Traverse survey has been commenced in the following districts :—

Khulna, Murshidabad and Birbhum.

No work has yet been done in—

Hooghly, Howrah, Burdwan (excluding Asansol subdivision Rangpur, 24-Parganas, Dinajpur and Malda.

Statement referred to in the reply given by the HON'BLE SIR HENRY WHEELER *to unstarred question No. 39 (d) asked by* RAI HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI *at the meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council held on the 7th February, 1921.*

Name and class of constituency.				Number of applications for registration received	Number of applications rejected.
Calcutta North	(Non-Muhammadan)	Urban	...	219	100
,, North-West	,,	,,	...	1,120	1,042
,, East	,,	,,	...	447	259
,, North Central	,,	,,	...	139	69
,, South ,,	,,	,,	...	124	38
,, South	,,	,,	...	241	103
Hooghly Municipal	,,	,,	...	7	Nil
Howrah ,,	,,	,,	...	...	...
24-Parganas Municipal North	,,	,,	...	4	Nil
,, ,, South	,,	,,	...	129	111
Dacca City	,,	,,	...	549	127
Burdwan	,,	Rural	...	264	210
Birbhum	,,	,,	...	21	14
Bankura West	,,	,,	...	5	1
,, East	,,	,,	...	5	2
Midnapore North	,,	,,	...	10	1
,, South	,,	,,	...	16	Nil
Hooghly *cum* Howrah	,,	,,	...	59	...
24-Parganas Rural Central	,,	,,	...	3	1
,, ,, South	,,	,,	...	2	1
,, ,, North	,,	,,	...	561	553
Nadia	,,	,,	...	214	153
Murshidabad	,,	,,	...	25	2
Jessore South	,,	,,	...	817	648
,, North	,,	,,	...	23	17
Khulna	,,	,,	...	1,953	1,844
Dacca	,,	,,	...	130	88
Mymensingh West	,,	,,	...	12	9
,, East	,,	,,	...	97	69
Faridpur North	,,	,,	...	53	40
,, South	,,	,,	...	203	180
Bakarganj North	,,	,,	...	455	347
,, South	,,	,,	...	803	720
Chittagong	,,	,,	...	197	30
Tippera	,,	,,	...	16	Nil
Noakhali	,,	,,	...	30	18
Rajshahi	,,	,,	...	232	60
Dinajpur	,,	,,	...	2	2

Name and class of constituency.				Number of applications for registration received.	Number of applications rejected.
Rangpur	(Non-Muhammadan)	Rural	...	36	29
Bogra *cum* Pabna	"	"	...	42	35
Malda	"	"	...	8	5
Jalpaiguri	"	"	...	1	1
Calcutta North	(Muhammadan)	Urban	...	9	5
" South	"	"	...	24	11
Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal	"	"	...	2	Nil
Barrackpore Municipal	"	"	...	Nil	Nil
24-Parganas	"	"	...	Nil	Nil
Dacca City	"	"	...	88	55
Burdwan Division North	"	Rural	...	1	Nil
" " South	"	"	...	37	3
24-Parganas	"	"	...	14	4
Nadia	"	"	...	62	43
Murshidabad	"	"	...	13	1
Jessore North	"	"	...	96	81
" South	"	"	...	28	28
Khulna	"	"	...	16	14
Dacca West	"	"	...	Nil	Nil
" East	"	"	...	1	Nil
Mymensingh West	"	"	...	97	74
" East	"	"	...	18	7
Faridpur North	"	"	...	30	18
" South	"	"	...	12	11
Bakarganj North	"	"	...	635	624
" West	"	"	...	927	889
" South	"	"	...	261	252
Chittagong	"	"	...	61	20
Tippera	"	"	...	13	7
Noakhali	"	"	...	3	3
Rajshahi South	"	"	...	3	Nil
" North	"	"	...	3	Nil
Dinajpur	"	"	...	4	1
Rangpur West	"	"	...	23	23
" East	"	"	...	3	2
Bogra	"	"	...	34	20
Pabna	"	"	...	1	Nil
Malda *cum* Jalpaiguri	"	"	...	9	4

Voting of Grants.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: With your permission, Sir, I should like, before we commence the discussion of grants, to make, on behalf of His Excellency, a statement on a point connected with the Budget which it is understood has given rise to some criticism of the action of Government, possibly based on a certain amount of misunderstanding.

The Council will observe that the salaries of Ministers have been classed as non-voted, and His Excellency has learned that some at least of the members of this Council regard this action as an unjustifiable curtailment of the constitutional rights of the Council in relation to this particular item of expenditure. His Excellency, therefore, wishes me to explain the reasons on which the action of Government was based.

It will be within the recollection of Council that under section 52 (1) of the Government of India Act, the Governor appointed three Ministers on the same salary as that drawn by Members of the Executive Council. It will equally be within the recollection of Council that on the 11th February various motions under section 52 (1) to reduce that salary were debated and finally rejected in this Council.

A reference was made to the Advocate-General—the highest accredited legal adviser of Government—as to the precise effect of the rejection of these motions, and we were advised that the intention of the section seemed to be that the power to reduce the salary of Ministers could be exercised once only, and that the salary of Ministers was now definitely fixed. In connection with the discussion on which we are about to enter to-day a second reference was then made to the Advocate-General as to whether the salary of Ministers was now to be regarded as expenditure of which the amount is prescribed by or under any law within the meaning of section 72-D (3) (*iii*), which directs that nothing in section 72-D (2) shall require proposals to be submitted to the Council relating to a head of expenditure of that category. The answer of the Advocate-General was in the affirmative, and in accordance with that answer the expenditure in question was classed as non-voted.

The local Government have not the slightest desire to impede the Legislative Council in the exercise of any right conferred upon it by Statute, but as the question is one of an interpretation of a Statute they can only be guided by the opinion of their legal advisers. His Excellency is, however, aware that doubts have been expressed in some quarters as to the correctness of the interpretation thus placed upon the Statute, and in these circumstances he is taking further legal opinion, and, if necessary, is prepared to refer the point, through the usual channels, for an authoritative ruling of constitutional lawyers at home.

This will enable these doubts to be finally set at rest before the Budget of 1922-23, while as regards the present Budget the matter has only recently been debated and decided in Council.

His Excellency trusts that it will be clear to all that the sole wish of the local Government is to follow what is decided to be the intention of the Statute.

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: Before the voting on grants begins I would ask permission to make a brief statement regarding the revised edition of the Budget and the Civil estimates which has been placed in the hands of members to-day. These volumes contain the latest figures, and it is proposed to work on them during the discussion on the demands for grants. I would ask the members of this Council to discard the old statements. I will only mention here the most important changes which have been made. The first change is that Income-Tax now appears in our Budget both on the receipt side and on the expenditure side. As I told the Council on the 21st February, the precise figure had not then been settled but we hoped that it would eventually be a figure which would make income and expenditure meet, and that result has been achieved. The receipt side of the estimate on page 1 of the Budget Statement now shows Rs. 93 lakhs under taxes on income, and the expenditure side shows a similar sum of Rs. 93 lakhs, made up of Rs. 1,29,000 under taxes on income as cost of establishment and Rs. 91,71,000 which is inserted under head " 51 " as part of the contribution to the Central Government. The result is therefore that our receipts and expenditure under income-tax balance and make no difference to the net actual financial position of the local Government.

The only other important changes made in the Budget are a reduction in the revised estimate for the current year of Rs. 7 lakhs under the head " Excise " and Rs. 6 lakhs under the head " Stamps." Under the latter head only half the reduction affects the provincial revenues and the other half is taken by the Government of India under the present financial arrangements. These changes in the revised estimate have been made on the basis of actual receipts up to the 31st January last. The importance of these changes so far as we are concerned is that they reduce our closing balance on the 31st March next by Rs. 10 lakhs, and there is consequently a corresponding reduction in the estimated closing balance of the year ending 31st March, 1922. The other alterations are of a minor character and most of them are due to a re-classification of the estimates between the " voted " and " non-voted " heads. In view of the remarks which were made in this House during the Budget discussion on this subject we have thoroughly overhauled these classifications in consultation with the Accountant-General. The final result which is shown on page 2 of the Budget is that out of a total expenditure of Rs. 1,275 lakhs a sum of Rs. 340 lakhs is " non-voted." Of this sum of Rs. 340 lakhs, Rs. 93 lakhs represents the income-tax expenditure to which I have already referred

and Rs. 63 lakhs represents our contribution to the Government of India, while Rs. 4 lakhs represents the interest on capital irrigation works. This total of Rs. 160 lakhs is clearly "non-voted." The balance of Rs. 180 lakhs which we have classified as "non-voted" represents expenditure on other items which fall under section 72-D (3) of the Government of India Act and also expenditure on the excluded areas—Darjeeling and the Chittagong Hill Tracts. We do not propose at present to put any part of this sum of Rs. 180 lakhs to the vote of this Council because we believe it to be excluded from their notice under the provisions of the law, but I would like to say that the ascertainment of these non-voted items in this first year of the new Budget arrangements has been a matter of considerable difficulty. In many cases it has involved the tracing back of the history of appointments for several years. It is possible we may find hereafter that some of the items which are at present placed under the non-voted head should have been placed under voted, but if it should be so, the Accountant-General will not allow us to spend the money until we get permission from the Council; we may therefore find it necessary to come to the Council later on to ask for supplementary votes on this account. I explain this to show that there is no ground for the suspicion that seems to exist, that we have improperly placed certain items under the "non-voted" head. It would not help us to do so, because if the money ought to be voted the Accountant-General would not allow us to spend it without permission from the Council. One of the functions of the Committee on public accounts will be to keep us straight with regard to these matters, and to report any improper behaviour on our part to the Council.

Meanwhile the total demand for the grants which we shall ask the Council to make during the next fortnight comes to Rs. 934 lakhs as shown on page 2 of the Budget estimates, plus a sum of Rs. 69,02,000 for expenditure on the Grand Trunk Canal which we propose to meet from loans, and a sum of Rs. 14,41,000 to be advanced by us in loans to local bodies and agriculturists

The Council may therefore safely confine their attention for the present to these demands.

The PRESIDENT: Before proceeding further, I wish to say that His Excellency the Governor has made an allotment of time for the discussion of the several demands of the local Government for grants. The paper has been circulated to you. His Excellency's object is to give the Council, during the 12 days allowed for the discussion under the rules, an opportunity of considering the grants under each major head. If the discussion of all the amendments under a particular head for which a separate allotment of time has been made is not finished within the time allotted, every amendment which has not been moved within that time will fall through. It is, therefore, for you to consider whether you should not economise the time given to you in such a way as to enable every mover of an amendment to place his motion before the Council.

Another way in which time can be economised is not to call for a division without due cause. I wish also to add that recently there was a question as to whether the 15-minutes adjournment in the evening should be granted. As you know, I called informally for an expression of the opinion of the Council, and the result was that 62 were in favour of the adjournment and 32 against it. The adjournment will, therefore, continue, but in order to give the Council the full 4 hours, I propose to sit till a quarter after 7 each day.

I have also to tell you that the statement made by Sir Henry Wheeler has no effect on the present debate, and no questions regarding the salary of Ministers can be raised while the voting of grants is going on.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN moved "that a sum of Rs. 69,32,000 be voted for expenditure under the head '5-Land Revenue' for the year 1921-21."

To take the last item which is the smallest first, I wish to explain that, with a view to obviate the necessity for the existence of revenue and expenditure accounts, the Government of India have ordered that all refunds from revenue in the civil estimates and the accounts, must be shown as deductions from actual collections. As, however, all revenue collected is deposited in full in the Treasury, refunds which represent excess amounts are regarded as expenditure which require the vote of the Council, and are therefore included in the demand for grants.

Within the amount of Rs. 59 lakhs odd there appears the grant we ask for survey and settlement. In view of the motions which will come up for a reduction of the provision in the Budget for survey and settlement, it will perhaps be better for the Council if the facts leading up to the Budget estimates are explained.

I already explained at some length the other day, in the course of the general discussion, that in 1915 the programme of survey and settlement work for the whole province was sanctioned by the Government of India. This programme replaced the programme of 1910. The 1915 programme provided for the carrying out of the survey and settlement work by four survey and settlement parties. In 1916 owing to the reduction of expenditure enforced by the war the four-party programme was reduced to a three-party programme. The result of this was that the operations in the Birbhum and Khulna districts, which should according to the programme have been finished by now, were not begun till the current year 1920-21. Murshidabad district was taken up in the same year according to the 1915 programme. In accordance with the Devolution Act, these three schemes were sanctioned by the Government of Bengal. The other operations in progress, namely, in Rajshahi Nadia, Jessore, Bankura and Pabna-Bogra were all sanctioned by the Government of India.

Besides these major operations, there are minor operations divided into the "land revenue" settlements and "advances recoverable" settlements. The cost of the latter is met out of sums deposited by the persons, on whose behalf they are made, and the same figure appears on both sides of the Budget. The land revenue settlements are for periodical settlements in Government estates and temporarily settled estates. This expenditure is unavoidable and the delay in carrying out such settlements involves loss of revenue. Postponement of some settlements of this nature was necessitated by the war, and this postponement involved loss.

In order to carry on the work according to the schemes sanctioned by the Government of India and by the Government of Bengal, the survey and settlement departments submitted estimates for expenditure amounting to Rs. 27,31,000. In addition to these estimates there were the following provisions in the Public Works Department Budget, under survey Rs. 2,57,000, under settlement Rs. 1,75,000. Provision in the Budget estimates for settlement operations was cut down by the Financial Department by Rs. 2,78,000 in all. The provision for buildings was also reduced by a Conference of Members and Ministers, and the following figures therefore now appear in the Budget estimates now under consideration:--

		Rs.
Survey	...	4,47,000
Settlement	...	24,53,000
Survey buildings	...	1,25,000
Settlement buildings	...	1,10,000

The Settlement Department are therefore already faced with the problem of carrying on the work according to the sanctioned programme with Rs. 2,79,000 less than they considered necessary. I would therefore suggest that as the figure for Survey and Settlement operations has already been reduced which will involve the people of the district in a loss, and it is not possible because there is not enough money to run settlement operations in a more economical fashion, it is obvious that if any of the motions for reduction be accepted, it would mean a loss of so much labour. Instead, therefore, of cutting down the figures in this manner arbitrarily, it would be wiser for the Council to wait till next year when proposals for new work and new traverses, such as that of Burdwan and other districts come up and it would be wiser for the members to consider the matter of voting, or voting down new survey programmes, instead of hampering works in progress and thereby increasing the costs of apportionment which would indeed be hard on the people of the district concerned, for I take it that the whole province is

not going to bear the cost for the sufferers in a particular district. I mention this all the more clearly, because in the motions that have been brought in order to retrench expenditure it is important to note that out of the expenditure only one-fourth will fall on provincial funds, three-fourths being recoverable from the landlords and tenants of the districts benefited.

The PRESIDENT: In connection with the various amendments, I wish to tell the Council that all the amendments in connection with the survey and settlement operations will be moved one by one, and then I propose to have a general discussion on the whole subject. Amendments 4 and 5 are in identical terms, so only one can be moved; I therefore call upon Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta to move his amendment.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA moved "that the demand under '5—Land Revenue' be reduced by omitting from the Budget the whole amount provided for settlement operations in Khulna, Murshidabad and Birbhum."

At the outset, I want to make my position clear, by saying that it is not my intention to be obstructive, but I do say that the principle which has actuated me in moving this amendment and others, is this: I think it is the paramount duty of this Council to reduce expenditure to the lowest level consistent with the well-being of the province and the efficiency of the departments concerned. It is, therefore, not at all my intention to request this House to do away with all survey and settlement operations altogether. The larger question as to whether survey and settlement operations, as at present conducted, are for the good of the people, does not concern us to-day. There is a great deal to be said on both sides of the question, especially about the present method, which keeps clear of the very important revenue survey line, but I am not going to discuss that point at all. I take it for granted that survey and settlement operations have got to be undertaken. On that basis, I would like to point out that the work which is already in progress in the five districts—Jessore, Nadia, Bankura, Pabna and Bogra—ought to be quite enough for the coming year without troubling our heads with new work in the three districts of Khulna, Murshidabad and Birbhum. I know that Government is in the happy position of being able to realise three-fourths of the cost in this connection, but the money has to be spent first and the realisation comes only afterwards, sometimes long afterwards. Money is scarce just now; and I think it is the duty of this Council to see that no work is undertaken which can safely be postponed, even for one year. We must cut down the Budget grants in such a manner that the earmarked balance of 1½ crores, the amount which had been specially set apart for Education and Sanitation by the Government of India, may not be touched at all. That amount must be religiously set apart, so that, when schemes for the improvement of education and sanitation mature,—

and the Ministers have given us hopes that they will mature,—we may be in a position to fall back upon our reserves.

Coming now to the point at issue, as far as a layman like me can understand the situation, not much important work has yet been done in connection with the survey and settlement operations of these three districts of Khulna, Murshidabad and Birbhum. As far as I have been able to gather, the preliminary work, if any work has been done at all, must merely have been traverse section work. Now in 1916, owing to war conditions, much preliminary work had to be postponed, and I do not think much harm was the effect of that. I submit that although the war is over, peace conditions are no better as regards finances. I think, if only traverse-section work has been done, we can safely wait another year to start settlement operations in these three new districts. It may be argued that the work in some of those districts, where operations are in progress, will be finished before the end of the next financial year, and that some of the staff may not have any work to do during some months of the year. But this is not a very serious argument after all. I think much of the settlement staff is temporary, and the officers and men can very well be discharged for a few months if occasion arises. Moreover, this sort of discharge of unnecessary staff is not at all a new matter in this department. Many such officers and men have been discharged in the past and taken on again, when new operations made their service necessary. In this case also, such a procedure may easily be followed.

Then again, from the Budget figures of the last four years we find that whereas the Government received a refund of Rs. 24, 21, 15 and 10 lakhs respectively during the last few years, they spent Rs. 18, 20, and 24 lakhs respectively under this head. It seems rather curious that whereas the expenditure has gone on increasing, the revenue has gone on diminishing. I do not know why this is so. The Budget provides during the coming year for a revenue of Rs. 16½ lakhs, that is likely to accrue from revenue on settlement and survey, whereas there is a provision of Rs. 27½ lakhs for expenditure. Now, if the new operations in these districts of Khulna, Murshidabad and Birbhum are postponed for one year, and not taken up just now, the revenue under the head of settlement and survey may be quite enough to meet expenditure that may be necessary for carrying on operations in the five old districts, so that we may not have any occasion to touch the revenue on other subjects at all.

The Hon'ble Revenue Member has told us that owing to delay in settlement during the war, there has been a loss of revenue, but I do not think this was very serious. I submit that no case has been made out that the settlement in these three districts is really so urgent as to demand the work being taken up at once, so I think it will be economical to have these operations postponed for one year at any rate.

With these few words, I beg to move that this demand be not granted for these three districts.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: In commending the motion that stands in my name to your acceptance I admit that I am actuated by motives of retrenchment. What I propose virtually is that expenditure under this head should be confined to the amount realisable under similar revenue heads. My reason for such a proposal is as much the supreme necessity for curtailment as also the fact that henceforth the Government of India are not going to pay for the settlement operations and make such advances as they were hitherto making As we shall therefore have to fall back upon our inadequate revenue resources, it wolud be, I think, nothing but imprudence to follow the original programme sanctioned as far back as in 1915. To provide for operations on a larger scale this year Government will be pushing on settlement operations with a vengeance indeed. Here it may be questioned that, if my object is to de-limit survey and settlement operations to the expected realisation under this head, why do I propose a grant for Rs. 13,00,000 in all, even taking the non-voted items therein, and why should I not put it down at Rs. 16,50,000—the Budget estimate of recoveries on this account? My answer is that such recoveries will have to be made mostly from the zamindars and tenants of the districts of Bankura, Jessore, and Nadia, and, if Bankura was only lately in the grip of a horrible famine from the effects of which it has hardly recovered yet, Jessore was to a great extent affected by the late cyclone. Moreover, I have got it from the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture that there has been a partial failure of rice crop in Nadia so that the yield has not been more than 67 per cent. the lowest figure for this year. I have therefore grounds for suspicion that recovery of survey and settlement charges for the year 1921-22 has been over-estimated and that however certificate procedure may come handy and be availed, something between Rs. 10,50,000 and Rs. 16,50,000 will be the correct estimate of receipts, I suppose.

Much on similar grounds I propose that settlement operations should not be extended to the districts of Khulna and Murshidabad. The district of Khulna, which naturally bears the brunt of all cyclonic disturbances was hit the hardest by the last cyclone. It will appear from the final report on the cyclone relief operations (although that report did not fully recognise the distress in Khulna) that Khulna ranked below Dacca only in the loss of human lives, but was the greatest sufferer in loss of cattle (having 28,000 cattle killed, out of the total number of 38,000 cattle mortality due to the cyclone), in damages to human habitation, and in permanent injury to its betelnut and cocoanut wealth. The greatest number of relief circles had to be opened in this district, and about 15,000 people (the greatest number of persons next to Dacca) had to bear the burden of loans, much of which still remain unpaid.

So great were the distressing after-effects that even after the cyclone relief operations were over, the local authorities had to request the zamindars to come to the rescue of the people suffering from severe scarcity prevailing in many of the southern villages of the district.

To extend settlement operations to that district now will be nothing but a cruel step and an unjust attempt to force an unwelcome measure against the wishes of the people. In the second of the three districts, to which it is proposed to extend settlement operations, I mean Murshidabad, there has also been a partial failure of crops. So, if the Government is at all bent upon extending settlement operations, new ground can be broken only in the small district of Birbhum and the reduced grant may permit them to do such things as well as to bring to the closing stages the current settlement works in the districts of Jessore, Nadia, etc.

In conclusion I beg to say that when records-of-rights have been finally published with regard to five-eighths of the total area, there is no reason to be in a hurry for such work. I also beg to remind the Hon'ble the Member in charge that suspension of new major undertakings is not without precedent, that no major settlement operation was undertaken in 1915 the year after the great war was declared and hence the proposal to curtail work and expenditure under this head should also be accepted in this year of unprecedented financial difficulty.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur moved "that the demand for Rs. 27,21,000 for the survey and settlement operations be reduced by Rs. 9,00,000.

In moving this resolution, I wish to make a few observations.

It is well known that the Council is much embarrassed to find a huge deficit in the Budget, and that, although several demands have been made for the improvement of public health, education and the promotion of industries, the invariable answer has been that there are no funds available at the disposal of Government for the promotion of these objects. The non-official members of the Council have been necessarily at pains to find out whether it is possible to reduce certain items of expenditure in order to swell the cash balances, and to place the Ministers in a position to embark on schemes which have been suggested in this Council. Well, the survey and settlement operations, it will be admitted, I hope by the Hon'ble Member, are not an item which affects the everyday administration of this Government. It is found from the figures that have been given in the Budget that the actual figure varied from Rs. 18,00,000 to Rs. 20,00,000 during the last few years, and if we now confine ourselves to the last year's actual, that is Rs. 20,00,000, the saving will to a certain extent help the initiation and promotion of some of the measures which the Council have been pressing

on the attention of the Government. I think the Government, will not be in any way hampered in pursuing the present operations of survey and settlement work. Hitherto, the Government of India have been contributing the entire cost of these operations, and according to the revised arrangement, under the Reforms Scheme, the whole cost will fall upon the local Government. On an average, the local Government had to contribute, I believe, Rs. 1,00,000 in one year, Rs. 1,85,000 in another year, and the last year Rs. 1,25,000 on this item of expenditure. The jump from Rs. 1,00,000 to Rs. 29,00,000 is a very big one and I think therefore that, instead of committing ourselves in the first year of the Budget to such a large expenditure, it would be better if we shouldered the burden which had already been placed on us during the last few years. Having regard to these facts I beg to move that the demand be reduced by Rs. 9,00,000.

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur moved "that the demand for survey and settlement operations be reduced by Rs, 8,21,000."

The PRESIDENT: I may state to the Council that Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur is not quite well and asks that permission may be given to some other Member of the Council to read his speech on his behalf. As a very special case I think this may be allowed, but I would leave it to the Council whether such permission should be given.

The Council agreed.

Maulvi Mahammed Madassur Hussain then read the following speech:—

I invite the attention of the Council to the proposed grant to the survey and settlement operations. It is a large sum. It is gradually on the increase over the figures of the previous years. There is an important fact which we should not overlook. The cost of major survey and settlement operations used to be advanced from the Imperial revenues, but from the next year the whole cost of the operations will fall on our shoulders. A glance at the revenue side of the Budget will convince us that the recoveries are not sufficient for the purpose. We must call it a spending department of the Government. We are investing large sums of money year after year, and our nation might rightly ask what benefits will come out of it. What material good or pecuniary help will be derived from the investment? We cannot tell the people that it is a commercial department, because its revenues fall far short of its expenditure. The nation might have overlooked the facts, if the incomes balanced the expenditure. We cannot support this department as one contributing greatly towards the moral and material improvement of the nation. What good does it bring? If public feelings be consulted outside the Council, I am sure every one will condemn it; zamindars murmur and raiyats complain. When the utility of the department is questionable, I think it will be prudent to restrict expenditure under this head, only to save ourselves from the hostile criticism from outside.

We are the custodians of public finance. We should, therefore, be careful in introducing new measures, new things into the Council. We should feel the pulse of public opinion, before we should venture to do anything totally new. The charges under this head are altogether new, the financial crisis of our country is great. The utility of the operations is questionable, and the public is suspicious about the activities of the department. I, therefore, think I am voicing the public opinion, if I say all the proposals for new survey and settlement operations be postponed for the present year. When we cannot spend more than Rs. 1,00,000 for primary education, Rs. 18,50,000 for public health, I think, it would not be prudent to spend more than Rs. 19,00,000 under survey and settlement operations. If we do not undertake any new settlement operations for the present year, I think we shall be able to manage the settlement department, making a reduction to the amount of Rs. 8,00,000. The curtailment of expenditure in the settlement department will enable us to restrict the activities of the survey department also.

I, therefore, propose a reduction of Rs. 21,000 under the survey department.

It but remains again to lay emphasis on the fact that good finance must be controlled by strong and intelligent public opinion outside the Council. The expenditure and income must be kept within reasonable limits, and public opinion must be sought when any new move is to be made. If we remain sensible to the demand outside, it is sure that we should do nothing liable to adverse criticism outside the Council. The members must echo the public voice, and that is why I ask to restrict expenditure on the survey and settlement operations.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY moved "that the demand for Rs. 23,11,000 be reduced by Rs. 8,00,000."

It is a significant fact that there have been so many motions to cut down the survey and settlement estimate. I am sorry that I have to differ from some of them. In moving the motion which stands in my name, I have specially two things in view. My first object has been to put a stop to an unnecessary drain on our impoverished exchequer by effecting such reductions of the estimate as would neither involve any serious dislocation of the present establishment nor disturb the normal programme of the department. My next object is to protest against any increased outlay on this department till our grievances against it have been redressed.

I find that the Hon'ble Revenue Member has made a demand, which is out of all proportion to what had been the normal allotment to the department of settlement in previous years; and in doing so he seems to have quite overlooked the fact that he can no longer draw upon the Imperial Exchequer for his supply. Every rupee that he wants to spend on settlement operations will have to be advanced by a Provincial Government, which, as everybody knows, is practically faced with a big deficit.

He also seems to take no account of the fact that in the presen economic condition of the country any widening of the scope of settle ment operations cannot but tell very heavily on the people, who woul he affected thereby. He speaks of the programme sanctioned by th Government of India in 1915. Well, we discarded the programme th very next year. Moreover, the Government of India now do not mak any contribution to this item. So I do not think that any programm sanctioned by them is in any way binding upon us. It is we, the zamin dars and the raiyats, who bear the bulk of these expenses. Seventy-fiv per cent. of the expenditure is recovered from us, and if we pay th piper, I think we are entitled to ask for the tune. The Maharaja o Burdwan also seems to have taken no account of the present economi condition of the country.

I deeply deplore the attitude which the Revenue Member has though fit to adopt in this connection. The series of motions against hi demand undoubtedly show the public feeling on the subject; they prove no doubt the unpopularity of the department. And to be candid, the public in the villages has been driven to a state of exasperation by the careless and inconsiderate manner in which the settlement proceeding are rushed through, and the situation has been further aggravated by the petty oppressions which are openly and systematically practised by the underlings of the department. The introduction of settlemen operations in a district has now come to be looked upon as a visi tation of the worst type. Settlement proceedings nowadays bring along in their train a long era of untold suffering in the affected area. It is a long and dismal tale of petty oppression, extortion, humi liation and what not: vested with summary powers the underlings of the department peacock about the country as if they are the pocket edi tions of the Revenue Member himself. Poor, illiterate and ignorant masses fall an easy prey to their abuse of authority. I am prepared to substantiate the charge, if the Hon'ble Member would care to come with me and go round the villages where he would see things for himself. This is not all; there is such an undue haste about the proceed ings that the entries are not correctly made, disputes are not properly entertained, and the stage called "attestation" is a mere farce. Important questions of rights and titles are disposed of in a manner which cannot but undermine the traditional respect that the villagers have for British justice. Such is the system, and there is apparently no remedy against these *zulums*, and this perhaps is the worst feature of the whole thing. One redeeming feature however is that all is well if you can pay well. The result is that, while the rich and wealthy prosper, the poor and weak suffer. I do not intend to take up more time of the Council in dwelling on this aspect of the question. All that I would like to say in this connection is that the system followed with regard to settlement operations requires a careful examination and a thorough overhauling from top to bottom. We have now got a whole-time Revenue Member;

and it is extremely fortunate that the post is now held by a most capable nobleman, who has first-hand knowledge of the abuses of the department, he himself being a big zamindar. Knowing him as I do, I can confidently hope that, if he would only set his heart to the subject, he would effect a reform which would earn for the department a reputation which it rightly deserves. I have nothing but the highest regard for the theory underlying the settlement proceedings. They are meant to give us an accurate survey of our holdings, to settle our rent and boundary disputes and to correctly record our rights and interests. In short, they are intended to be a great boon to the raiyats and zamindars alike, and I highly appreciate their educative effect on our tenantry. But it is against the present rules which regulate the system that I protest. They are the root causes of the deplorable degeneration of the Settlement Department. We want the Maharaja of Burdwan to set things right and I have every hope that he would do so. It is because I fervently cherish this hope that I do not want to cripple the department in a manner which some of my friends would like to. All that I want, with regard to the Budget estimate is that we should not vote for the increased activities of the department so long as the necessary reforms are not effected. I do not want to interfere with the normal activities of the department, and in proposing the reductions I have scrupulously adhered to this principle. I will place before the Council a detailed account of the settlement expenses from the year 1917 and the reductions that I propose to effect in the budget estimate.

The total expenditure on settlement in the year—

			Rs.
1917 was	...	...	17,36,000
1918 "	...	...	17,33,000
1919 "	...	...	18,48,000
1920 "	...	...	17,94,000
1921 "		about	18,00,000

and the budget estimate for the year 1922 is Rs. 24,38,000. From Rs. 17,36,000 in 1917 the budget estimate for 1922 is Rs. 24,38,000 with a deficit budget before us!

Coming to the details, I find that the expenses under the head "Salary and Local Allowances" were in—

			Rs.
1917	...	...	3,03,000
1918	...	...	2,72,000
1919	...	...	3,19,000
1920	...	...	3,26,000

and the budget estimate for 1922 is Rs. 5,21,000. From Rs. 2,72,000 in 1918 there is a big jump to Rs. 5,21,000 in 1922! I propose a reduction under this head of Rs. 2,00,000.

I then come to the head "Travelling Expenses." The expenses under this head were in—

			Rs.
1917	...	...	72,000
1918	...	...	70,000
1919	...	...	83,000
1920	...	...	86,000

but perhaps as the railway fares have gone up the figure for 1922 has been put at Rs. 2,15,000. From Rs. 72,000 in 1917 the budget estimate for 1922 has gone up to Rs. 2,15,000, *i.e.*, three times what it was in 1917. Under this head I propose a reduction of Rs. 1,30,000.

Then comes the "Office and Field Establishment" (a portion of this is temporary). It is often impossible to discharge people who are permanently employed in this department; but, Sir, these items concern all temporary men. The expenses were in—

			Rs.
1917	...	...	3,34,000
1918	...	...	3,37,000
1919	...	...	4,06,000
1920	..	...	4,22,000

and the budget estimate for 1922 is Rs. 4,81,000. Here, I propose a reduction of Rs. 1,20,000.

Then comes the "Job work" (entirely temporary). I am told that a lot of jobbery goes on here: the work is done entirely by temporary hands. The expenses were in—

			Rs.
1917	...	...	8,64,000
1918	...	...	8,40,000
1919	...	...	8,60,000
1920	...	...	7,81,000

and the budget estimate for 1922 is Rs. 8,43,000. Here I propose a reduction of Rs. 2,10,000.

I now come to the "Provision for Minor Operations." The Hon'ble Member in charge has referred to the fact that the Government of India sanction them. But the Government of India laid down that when the major operations were going on, it was not necessary to carry on any minor operations. However, I think it did not attract his notice and so a provision has been made of Rs. 82,000 under this head for 1922. I propose to reduce Rs. 25,000 from this item.

Then comes the head "Miscellaneous" (including contingencies, stores, and such things as motor-cars, motor-launches, tents, etc.). The expenses under this head were in—

			Rs.
1917	...	...	1,63,000
1918	..	...	2,14,000
1919	...	..	1,80,000
1920	...	...	1,79,000

But the budget estimate for 1922 is Rs. 2,96,000. Almost double! Here I propose a reduction of Rs. 1,15,000.

Thus, from the total budget estimate of Rs. 24,38,000. I propose a reduction of Rs. 8,00,000 only. Still I allow the department to have about Rs. 16,50,000 to play with, to use the Maharaja's favourite term.

This would show that I do not mean any serious interference with current arrangements, nor do I propose to dispense with the services of any trained permanent hand.

With these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The PRESIDENT: The next item is identical to the one which has just been moved. I therefore call upon Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur to move item No. 11.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur moved "that the demand for Rs. 27,21,000 be reduced by Rs. 2,84,000."

At the outset I wish to make my position clear. My object in proposing this motion is two-fold; first, to draw the attention of Government and of this Council to the lavish manner in which extra expenditure is proposed to be incurred without regard to the financial situation of the Presidency or the willingness or ability of the people, on whom the settlement operations are thrust, to pay the extra taxation they have to meet for this purpose, and secondly, I wish to draw attention to the extravagance of the department owing to which a large portion of the expenditure is simply a waste of public money. When at the beginning of the new era we are confronted with a financial crisis of an alarming nature threatening the success of the whole scheme, it behoves every one concerned to be a bit cautious before he allows himself to be a party to any new expenditure which is neither urgent nor productive of fresh wealth. In regard to the case under consideration, which relates to the survey and preparation of record-of-rights in the three new districts of Khulna, Murshidabad and Birbhum, the only explanation that has been offered is that these operations have already been sanctioned. I ask the Government seriously whether in the present financial bankruptcy this is a sufficient justification for commencing these expensive schemes. Perhaps Government will reply that the traverse survey has already been

done in these districts and to postpone the operations would mean perhaps a loss of the money spent on this account. I will answer to this later on and will show that this alleged loss will be more than compensated by the savings, which will follow, if my suggestions are accepted. In fact, my contention is that the present system is ruinous both to the public and the particular individuals concerned, and the whole system requires a thorough overhauling. So far as I understand, the present system is this: Under section 114 of the Bengal Tenancy Act the cost of all settlement operations is shared by Government and the people in the ratio of 25 to 75. Now, what happens appears to be this, that a preliminary estimate is made, according to which the people are made to pay 75 per cent. of the estimated expenditure. At the conclusion of most of the operations a very large saving takes place even after meeting expenditure at a lavish scale, which saving Government appropriates without any justification whatsoever. It appears that in the case of the Mymensingh district the saving amounted to about 3 lakhs of rupees, which sum the Mymensingh public claimed back for starting a dispensary, and the reply they received was that the money belonged to the Government of India and the local Government was not concerned. I ask the Government seriously, was it morally and legally justified in appropriating this sum realized from the people as their share of the cost? My first submission, therefore, is that the whole money budgeted for is not really necessary and the estimate requires closer scrutiny.

My second point is this, that in order to mitigate the hardship of the people and to minimise the cost of the Settlement Department the whole question requires careful examination. It will be said that these are vague words. I, therefore, make certain definite suggestions. In the first place, I find that Bihar and Orissa with a larger area than Bengal, and having a larger number of Khas Mahals, manages the departments of Survey and Land Records by a single officer. In Bengal we have a separate Director of Surveys. Surely there is scope for retrenchment here, and why cannot the Revenue Secretary, with his work considerably lightened by the appointment of a separate Agricultural and Industrial Secretary, take up some of the duties of either the Director of Surveys or the Director of Land Records? In the second place, from an examination of the present Civil List I find that in Pabna-Bogra the Settlement Officer, Mr. Philpott, has another I.C.S. officer under him. Similarly both in Bankura and Nadia the I.C.S. Settlement Officers have each an I.C.S. Assistant Settlement Officer under them. Now look to Jessore where the Settlement Officer is Khan Bahadur Maulvi Abdul Momin, an officer risen from the rank of Sub-Deputy Collector, I believe. There is no I.C.S. Assistant Settlement Officer there. The obvious reason is that it would be derogatory to an European officer to be placed under an Indian Officer. Whatever may be the cause, I put to Government this question: Is the settlement operation at Jessore being managed less efficiently because the Assistant Settlement Offcers are not

I.C.S. officers? If the answer be in the negative, then there is no justification whatsoever in employing the costly I.C.S. officers either as Settlement or Assistant Settlement Officers, as the work can be equally efficiently performed by the less costly Deputy and Sub-Deputy Collectors. I should like to go down further, why cannot experienced Kanungoes, who nowadays possess equal qualifications as Deputy and Sub-Deputy Collectors, be vested with revenue powers and largely replace expensive gazetted officers? A Sub-Deputy Collector employed on settlement work draws an allowance of Rs. 50 a month in addition to pay, while an I.C.S. or a Deputy Collector or a Munsif working as Assistant Settlement Officer draws an allowance of Rs. 100 a month, whereas a Kanungo requires no allowance and his pay is only Rs. 100 rising to Rs. 200.

I am not a visionary, but a practical man of the world, and I do not suggest any violent or sudden change. I perfectly realise that the maintenance of a correct record-of-rights is beneficial both to Government and to the people. My resolution therefore does not imply the abolition of the Department of Land Records or a surrender of the programme laid down for Khulna, Murshidabad and Birbhum. What I mean to urge is that this is a very fit subject for examination by a Special Committee with a view to ascertain what retrenchment is possible without loss of the efficiency of the work, and that until this question is thoroughly settled the proposed operations be postponed. Any loss that might be incurred owing to the effacement of traverse survey marks will be more than compensated by the savings which will accrue from my suggestions. After all, this is by no means such an urgent matter that it cannot bear one or two years' delay and in view of the state of the provincial finance, which has rendered it necessary to postpone most important reforms, I venture to appeal most strongly to Government and to this Council that my resolution for the reduction of the demand for survey and settlement by Rs. 2,84,000 be accepted. If this is done, the grant under the head will be Rs. 24,37,000, which is the revised estimate for the current year and this will allow all existing operations in progress to be continued. It will only mean a temporary postponement of the programme laid down for three new districts.

With these words, Sir, I hope and trust that my motion will be accepted by the Council.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY moved "that the demand for Rs. 2,73,000 under the head 'Survey Operations—5A—Survey and Settlement' be reduced by Rs. 63,000."

In moving this motion, too, I have taken pretty good care not to interfere with current arrangements. The proposed reduction only refers to the excess outlay proposed in the Budget estimates. The following statement of detailed accounts of previous years will make my position clear:—The total expenditure in 1918, 1919, 1920 and 1921 was Rs. 1,35,000, Rs. 1,53,000, Rs. 1,90,000 and Rs. 2,24,000,

done in these districts and to postpone the operations would mean perhaps a loss of the money spent on this account. I will answer to this later on and will show that this alleged loss will be more than compensated by the savings, which will follow, if my suggestions are accepted. In fact, my contention is that the present system is ruinous both to the public and the particular individuals concerned, and the whole system requires a thorough overhauling. So far as I understand, the present system is this: Under section 114 of the Bengal Tenancy Act the cost of all settlement operations is shared by Government and the people in the ratio of 25 to 75. Now, what happens appears to be this, that a preliminary estimate is made, according to which the people are made to pay 75 per cent. of the estimated expenditure. At the conclusion of most of the operations a very large saving takes place even after meeting expenditure at a lavish scale, which saving Government appropriates without any justification whatsoever. It appears that in the case of the Mymensingh district the saving amounted to about 3 lakhs of rupees, which sum the Mymensingh public claimed back for starting a dispensary, and the reply they received was that the money belonged to the Government of India and the local Government was not concerned. I ask the Government seriously, was it morally and legally justified in appropriating this sum realized from the people as their share of the cost? My first submission, therefore, is that the whole money budgeted for is not really necessary and the estimate requires closer scrutiny.

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I am not a visionary, but a practical man of the world, and I do not suggest any violent or sudden change. I perfectly realise that the maintenance of a correct record-of-rights is beneficial both to Government and to the people. My resolution therefore does not imply the abolition of the Department of Land Records or a surrender of the programme laid down for Khulna, Murshidabad and Birbhum. What I mean to urge is that this is a very fit subject for examination by a Special Committee with a view to ascertain what retrenchment is possible without loss of the efficiency of the work, and that until this question is thoroughly settled the proposed operations be postponed. Any loss that might be incurred owing to the effacement of traverse survey marks will be more than compensated by the savings which will accrue from my suggestions. After all, this is by no means such an urgent matter that it cannot bear one or two years' delay and in view of the state of the provincial finance, which has rendered it necessary to postpone most important reforms, I venture to appeal most strongly to Government and to this Council that my resolution for the reduction of the demand for survey and settlement by Rs. 2,84,000 be accepted. If this is done, the grant under the head will be Rs. 24,37,000, which is the revised estimate for the current year and this will allow all existing operations in progress to be continued. It will only mean a temporary postponement of the programme laid down for three new districts.

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respectively, and in the Budget Estimates of this year it is Rs. 2,70,00(Then again, Sir, coming to the detailed salaries in 1918 the provisio was Rs. 10,000 and the proposed estimate (1921-22) is Rs. 16,50(Travelling in 1918 was Rs. 7,000 and the proposed estimate (1921-22) : Rs. 14,500. The establishment in 1918 was Rs. 89,000 and in 1921-2 is Rs. 1,65,000. Stores and contingencies in 1918 were Rs. 29,000 an in 1921-22 are Rs. 74,000. It will be apparent to the House how th expenses are gradually rising. My proposal for reducing the grant b Rs. 63,000 is by no means unreasonable and I hope the House will hel me to carry my motion.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: There is no doubt that settl ment and surveys operations are a necessity for the poor raiyats. Zamin dars may chafe at the operations, but in order to settle the record-o rights and to settle the position of raiyats, it is an essentially necessar operation. My object in giving notice of an amendment is to reduc the amount of expenditure. Of course there ought to be expenditur for settlement and survey operations, but we ought to limit the expend ture to as small an amount as is possible. My object, therefor it is not to hinder operations on any account, but, let the expenditur be reduced as far as possible. That is the object of my amendment an I therefore beg leave to move that the demand under head "Detaile Account—No. 5 A—Survey and Settlement" for Rs. 2,73,000 b reduced by Rs. 35,288.

The PRESIDENT: I wish to remind the members that, unle speeches are short, it will be impossible to go through all the amend ments.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I would be very shor Sir. I might say here that the speech delivered by the Hon'ble Mr. Ke ought to have been supplied to us, as it was very difficult for us to follo from such a distance. These speeches are manuscript speeches. The could have with advantage been supplied to us. The same remar applies to the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan' speech. In this connection, I might also say that Mr. Marr gave u some details about the grants at the last Council. His speech has n been reported in the press and even now we do not know what thos details are, for we could not follow him at such a distance.

Coming to the question of the motion, of which I gave notice. may say that I entirely agree with Mr. Dutta that our sole desire i moving this resolution is that we should be strictly economical, and ou object is not to encroach upon the closing balance, which consists of large sum of money already earmarked. Sir, it is admitted that our is a deficit, and if we are to take money from other sources, we mus first see how far we can avoid doing it. The people, whom we hav the honour to represent in this Council, would consider an encroachmen

upon earmarked grants as a spoliation. And it is no wonder. Sir, these sums are meant for special purposes and they would serve to do something towards the solution of the bread problem, and if we are to spend it for ordinary purposes, the people will not naturally be satisfied with us.

The Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea said in this Council:—

"Give me more money and I would drive malaria from the province." Now, Sir, here is a large sum of money. Why not take it and devise means for fighting out malaria? Sir, the other day Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur moved a resolution on vocational education and which was accepted by Government. Why not take a few lakhs from this large sum and utilize it for the purpose of vocational education? I have full sympathy with the movement that, as far as possible, we should cut down expenses and not grant the whole demand. The new settlement operations are not a strict necessity, and the rules under which they are being carried on require consideration and revision. Even from the raiyats' point of view, I can say that in the Settlement Department waste lands and old tanks are being assessed for cess purposes, and the result is that the same rent is fixed for all kinds of lands, and the whole thing is assessed generally for the purposes of irrigation. If these things are taxed, zamindars will naturally take advantage of enhancing the rent, and the poor raiyat will suffer. The measurement is being made on a plane-table system and without any reference to the village, a measurement is fixed. A few years hence if there is any dispute between raiyats and raiyats, it would be very difficult to compare these maps and measurement papers in order to ascertain the nature of the disputes. There are several other things, which need not be discussed now. I only want to say that this land settlement is not a strict necessity, and before starting it we should see how far the rules require revision.

I may be permitted to refer to another question. Bengal is an agricultural province. Even the middle class people are agriculturists by nature. Zamindars themselves have been recognising the middle class gentlemen as raiyats for a very long time, but in the settlement operations those who engage labourers or cultivate lands themselves are being treated as tenure-holders and the result is a tremendous enhancement of rents by zamindars. I refer to these things only in the interests of raiyats. Whether these things are to be reconsidered is a point for serious consideration. I say if there is a special necessity for these new operations, then go on with it by all means, but if there is no such necessity, then we should not continue it. The Hon'ble the Revenue Member reminded us that, if we were spending money now, we should recover 75 per cent. later on, but I say, if it is a loan operation, then why not wait till we have sufficient money at our disposal? I think the grant should be cut down materially, and only that grant which is required

as an absolute necessity should be voted. With these observation support the motion.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I have to op this motion. But before I do so, I have very reluctantly and with great regret to reply to certain very injurious observations made aga me on the last occasion when I was here by Mr. Ajoy Dutt, the so an illustrious patriot and leader. I would not have to make this now but for the closure that was used then. Mr. Dutt said that I w non-co-operator. I was not, and I am not in the ranks of the M rates whose leaders 15 years ago were the orginators and supporter the boycott movement, which sent hundreds of young men to gallows, to imprisonment and to the Andamans. On that occasio was thanked both by the supreme and the local Governments for action. It is enough for me to say that I am not a non-co-operator a Moderate. I belong to no party. But I hold the good and wel of this province above all interests except those of morality.

Now, I come to the main subject. The British Government is nowadays credited with much goodwill towards the people of country. But in this matter of record-of-rights it has acted up to highest traditions of safeguarding the rights of the poor people Bengal. Everybody knows how the rights of tenants have been served by the Regulations of 1793 and by the Tenancy Act. We k what great good the British Government has done to the poor ten of the country. The record-of-rights is the greatest of these benefi acts. Sir, I am myself a landlord entitled to be elected to the Co of State. I have suffered personally on account of these settlem proceedings—I have suffered much loss. It is not yet forgotten Sir Nicholas Beatson Bell most unjustly abused in the Gazette father and Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri. But notwithstanding that I bound to say that the record-of-rights is a most beneficent act. safeguards the rights of tenants, and I can safely say that it is of great advantage to the landlords also. It is only the shortsigh landlords that oppose the record-of-rights. But the time is comin within the next 20 years—when these benches and chairs will be oc pied not by the landlords' but by the tenants' representatives. And t they will begin to ask—what are your rights—the rights of the landlor And the landlords will be very glad to have a record-of-rights then.

There is another matter. In most of the districts there has bee record-of-rights,—only a few districts remain. And why on ea should the operations be stopped in these districts? Here is Raja Hri kesh Laha the largest zamindar in the district of the 24-Parga and Khulna and here am I, a poor zamindar—and we are both of o ion that not for a single day should the proceedings of the record-rights be stopped in these districts. Do those gentlemen, who h spoken about Khulna, know that the record-of-rights is in operation j

now in that district? The large properities of the Lahas are being surveyed. Is this to be stopped? Somebody said—these are only temporary men, let them go. Temporary men have no rights, and so they must go away and starve. Very good! But nobody would approve of this sort of thing. Government knows how to do things. It employs a large number of amins and other officers. They cannot be turned out in a day. Government knows how they are to be employed;—and the staff must go on till the settlement proceedings are completed. Somebody said—why have you taken up work in four districts? Do you know why? The work has been completed, in other districts and where are these men to go? After the records are made and the disputes settled, the surveyors should go to other districts. I think in this matter Government has every right to the support of every member here. As regards economy, nobody can suggest where the economy is to be applied. I think it would be enough for the Hon'ble Member in charge to say that he would see that the utmost economy is exercised. That would be quite enough. Nobody can point out how economy is to be exercised. Economy is very good, but how is it to be effected? I think the motion that has been brought here should not be supported.

Mr. C. W. RHODES: This resolution makes a very imposing vanguard for the other resolutions which follow on the Budget and by the time we have passed them, all, I shall be congratulating the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr on having a very handsome surplus in a howling wilderness of a province. The intention of all these resolutions is to kill land settlement. Most of the resolutions and most of the speakers will kill it by sweet words, "not this year, but next year," "not next year but a year after that." The Kumar of Rajshahi has come out in the open declaring himself to be a zamindar and fought for his rights as a zamindar. I do not know that I respect him any the less for that. Sixty years ago the zamindars of Bengal obtained their rights—their record-of-rights—in those old maps which they still produce in court as evidence of their ownership. The permanent settlement promised the same record for the tenants. Have we asked the tenant whether he wants the land settlement to be continued? So far as I see only the zamindars have spoken. The resolution asked us to declare that pledges may be broken and obligations may be unfulfilled. Well, then, pass this resolution, and it would create a very good precedent for the scrapping of the whole permanent settlement. The pledge given to the zamindar is no more valuable in the eyes of the Government than the pledge given to the raiyat. As regards the views of the raiyats, may I just quote what a Lieutenant-Governor said many years ago. He said: "Our principal object in undertaking the survey and record-of-rights is to protect the legal rights of the raiyats which have been so neglected in the past. The zamindars seek to defeat the existing law and the Government seeks to enforce it." And again the Government of India, so far back as in 1822, proposed a record-of-rights of the permanently settled districts of

Bengal, as being the only effectual means of defining and maintaining the rights of raiyats, all other means having proved useless. All these resolutions have been moved in the interest of economy, and in the interest of economy I oppose them. If the settlement goes on, 75 per cent. of the cost is recoverable from the zamindars; if it is stopped, all is lost. The zamindars, it is true, will save money at the expense of the people, but you must remember—and I know I am speaking to a great many zamindars—that the absence of these records-of-rights has often produced riots in the districts. But I am not prepared to believe, until the division bell compels me to believe, that the zamindars in this Council will deliberately put the money of the people into their own pockets.

One word more. This province can never be properly developed until the land is properly settled. Those of us, who are trying to buy lands for coal mines and for other industrial purposes, know how it is almost impossible to get any clear title to the land, and that the titles we get are not worth the paper they are written on. There can be no industrial development for Bengal until we can get clearer titles, and land settlement is the first step in this direction. I would, therefore, ask the Council to throw out these resolutions, first, because they will break a pledge to those voiceless millions, about whom we heard so much when the elections were on and so little in this Council, and secondly, because it would be throwing away much money, and thirdly, because all these resolutions aim a blow at the development of the province

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: It will be found by the members of this Council that most of these motions have come from the zamindars, and so in the first place I beg to submit for the information of the President and the House that I am not a zamindar.

The first speaker based his argument for reduction on the ground that by effecting a reduction we may not have to interfere with the grant from the Government of India and that towards the end of the year we could have a big sum as our closing balance. Now, Sir, I ask—is that a sufficient ground for stopping the survey and settlement operations which have been continuing for many years past? His next ground is, as has been observed by him, that the survey operations in some of the districts should be postponed, and that the officers and men employed on the work should await another year, and that they should go with their bag and baggage elsewhere, and that in the next year when we frame the Budget they will go on with their work. I do not think, Sir that should have been the statement of any responsible officer.

The next speaker wants money for Sanitation and Education—indeed I have every sympathy with him—and he wants to stop the survey operations, but our position here is like that of a member of a District Board or a Municipal Commissioner in appointing certain persons on a pay of over Rs. 50 whose decision can be vetoed by the Chairman and

the Commissioner. Therefore, Sir, it does not lie in our mouth to say that this money should be spent on Education and that on Sanitation.

Then we have heard the very able speech of one of the leading members of this Council, who has advocated the postponement of survey work on account of the oppression committed by particular officers. I admit that there may be a bad man, but is that a sufficient reason for stopping the operations. Are not some of the naibs of zamindars regular *badmashes*, and what has been done by the leading zamindars to stop that engine of oppression?

Then, Sir, we have been told that no further progress should be made in this department, until and unless some reform is introduced. But we have not been told as to how and by whom these reforms will be introduced. So we may do away with this suggestion.

We have also heard our Rai Bahadur, who has come forward with a request, to which I hope the Hon'ble Member will give his kind consideration. On one hand we have heard that the survey operations in Khulna should be stopped, while on the other hand we are told that they must continue. We do not know what course to follow.

We have also heard another gentleman who has said that the preparation of record-of-rights saves rights and privileges of the tenants, and he therefore thinks that the survey operations should continue.

We have also heard another gentleman, who said that the pasture land has to be assessed and requires to be assessed. The result is that the zamindars will get some amount of money from this pasture land and the poor tenants will suffer. I request the zamindar councillors to extend their helping hand in this matter.

With these few observations I beg to oppose the motion.

Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED: I beg to support this motion and my reasons are these. The Settlement operations generally begin in November when there is a pucca paddy on the lands, and so many amins and so many villagers pass over this pucca paddy of the humble tenant that they cause great damage to the paddy. If this is the case with every plot of land in a village, it makes a huge damage in the whole district. So, if survey operations are carried on in many districts, the damage will be very large. Secondly, Sir, the amins, kanungoes and the officers of the Settlement Department, begin their work in the winter season and also in the summer season, and all the villagers have to dance attendance on these officers with the result that most of the land in villages remain uncultivated. Thirdly, Sir, it also entails a great hardship on the zamindars, who happen to possess land in more than one district because they have to engage more officers to attend these officers of the Settlement Department. Besides, Sir, the zamindars do incur large costs, and I know some zamindars have already run into debt for paying up these costs. Fourthly, Sir, if all the districts in

Bengal are taken up all at once, the whole staff of the Settlement Department will have to work all together with the result that the settlement will be finished very soon and these officers will be let loose without anything in future for them. So, Sir, I think that if the work of the Settlement Department is taken up one by one, the result will be that these officers could be provided for a longer period than they would be under the present arrangements. It has also been suggested that the settlement operations in the districts of Khulna, Murshidabad and Jessore should be stopped. This, I am afraid, I cannot support, because I know in Jessore and Bankura the settlement operations are going to be finished this year. The staff of the Settlement Department will lose their appointments, if no districts are taken up very soon. So some new district should be taken up– preferably Murshidabad, where Government will not have to spend money for buildings. I therefore submit that instead of taking these three districts all together, if Government take them up one by one that will serve the purpose of Government as well as that of the people.

With these few observations I beg to support the motion.

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: We have had too many motions which propose the curtailment of the expenditure on settlement operations. The settlement operations and the preparation of the record-of-rights should be proceeded with as quickly as possible. In many districts there are agrarian troubles and gradually there will be more agrarian troubles in Bengal, and it is proper that record-of-rights should be prepared in every district as early as possible. Sir, I, representing the non-Muhammadans of Dinajpore, perhaps the most backward district in Bengal, would welcome expenditure on the preparation of record-of-rights as early as possible. Sir, some of the movers of the motions have said that settlement operations should be stopped in some of the districts. I beg to submit that it would be very unfair if that is done. There are encroachments upon rights by might, and Government should come forward and help the right to have its own might. I am a landholder, and I can say that it would be very well for the landholders, if these settlement operations are finished as quickly as possible, which would avoid much trouble between the tenant and the landlord.

Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray has said that there are oppressions by the officers of the Settlement Department. Sir, we all complain against that, but that should be no ground for curtailing expenditure on settlement operations. Of course the cost of settlement operations will be brought down as low as possible but settlement operations must not be stopped.

With these few remarks I beg to oppose the motion.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I am one of those who do appreciate the value of survey and settlement proceedings, and I am one of those, who do think that it is a very important procedure, so far as

the rights of these poor tenants are concerned as against their landlords. There are of course good landlords and bad landlords. I need not say anything against them as a whole. That the rights of these poor men have to be safeguarded is beyond question, but at the same time, Sir, I think that there is something like moderation in the work you ought to take up, and you ought not to spend even more than last year. In making my suggestion in this behalf to the Council, I will ask the Council to remember that hitherto this expenditure was being paid to us practically by the Government of India and now we have got to find the whole of it for ourselves. Therefore the question arises, which is just the same as eating lollipops. You can eat as much as you like if somebody pays for it, but you cannot eat too much particularly when your pocket is not full. You have got to pay the whole of this Rs. 27,00,000, and therefore in this present condition of your Budget, should you indulge in this excessive cost? That is the whole question. I think there is room for moderation.

There is only one thing which I would like to say in reply to my esteemed friend Mr. Rhodes. He said—"Ask the tenants: what do they say? Do they think that this is a necessity?" I say—why don't you go and ask them if there is no greater necessity in matters of sanitation and education? People are dying of malaria, and you have not got much to say about them, but your hearts are overflowing with sympathy when the question of survey and settlement comes before you. I do not think there is any point in what my esteemed friend Mr. Rhodes has said. Ask the tenants, ask the better minds among them about agricultural education, about technical education, about compulsory primary education. What have we got to say to them in respect of these matters? Only when the question of survey operations comes your heart flows to over-flowing.

Then, Sir, Mr. Rhodes has also referred to one other matter and I think I should say something in passing. He said that there would be no industrial development until land settlement was made, as if the whole of this industrial question and progress in this country were absolutely dependent on this land settlement. Nobody heard of a proposition like that. As regards the reduction in the demand for survey and settlement operations I think there is something like a *via media* and I will ask the Hon'ble Member to consider whether a sufficient reduction cannot be made, and that money left over for improvements in the domains of sanitation and primary and agricultural education.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The tone of the debate on the different motions for the curtailment of the settlement grant has on the whole been very moderate, and, therefore, before I make any general observations in defending the policy of Government and the programme of the Settlement Department with regard to survey and settlement operations in the province

during the year for which we are budgeting, I think that it would perhaps be best for me to make a few general observations with regard to some of the remarks that have been made by some of the movers of the amendments.

First of all, I come to the motion of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta. His arguments have been to reduce the demand, firstly, on the ground of the present economic condition, and although he does not wish to retard the progress of works we have in hand, he considers that we should postpone the new works which, according to him, are those in Khulna, Murshidabad and Birbhum. Well, I shall show the condition in these three districts and how much work has been done there, and it would then be for the members of this Council to judge as to whether we should stop that work or not.

Then Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri has said his main motive of retrenchment is the present economic condition, and of course he has raised the question of the Government of India having advanced the money in former days and so forth. Well, that too I will endeavour to explain in my general observations. Then we have Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, who also has made certain general observations regarding retrenchment. Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur does not think that survey and settlement operations contribute to the moral and material good of the people. I will quote from the Bengal District Administration Committee's Report a few remarks to challenge what the Rai Bahadur has said on this point. I shall only mention what the Committee said with regard to the finish of the work in this province as well as to the utility of survey and settlement. With regard to the finish of the work, the Committee said: "We have compared the difficulty of the work with that of other provinces, and we are satisfied that in no province has the work been better done. Those of us who come from other provinces were particularly impressed by the zeal and efficiency of the Bengal kanungoes and by the excellence of the printed records which are now being prepared."

With regard to the usefulness, the Committee said: "On the usefulness of these documents to landlords and tenants almost all the Bengal witnesses whom we examined were unanimous, and many of them expressed an opinion in favour of their continuous maintenance by a local agency. For instance, we would invite attention to the evidence of the Hon'ble Mr. Byomkesh Chakravarti, who came to us as the accredited representative of the Bengal Landholders' Association. This witness stated that 'the maintenance of the record would be valuable and he would prefer yearly maintenance to periodical revision'! This is a sufficient evidence and from the landholders' point of view it does not bear out what the Rai Bahadur said that it would not contribute to the moral and material good of the people."

Now we come to the remarks of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray. I shall deal with some of the arguments that the Kumar adduced in my

general observations, but the Kumar has got such a knack of blowing hot and cold in the same breath, of trying to kick up the leading zamindar to the seventh heaven and then bringing him down to the level of the smaller fries in the Settlement Department that one is at a loss to understand whether the Kumar should be taken seriously. However, this is a matter, regarding which there has been a difference of opinion, and as I have got to push my argument and convince the Council, I shall be as brief as possible in reply to the general remarks of the Kumar. Of course the main objection that the Kumar has in a general way to the survey and settlement operations is that the oppression and *zulum* of some of the underlings are so great that, instead of these operations being really beneficial to the tenants, they are really a great source of nuisance to them. There are of course men—underlings—who deal in an underhand way, but if we were to go into it, I doubt very much whether a good number of zamindars would come out of it with clean hands, or whether this endeavour to wash dirty linen in public would really show up a certain number of zamindars in a light, which would be beneficial to them in the long run. I do not know if the Kumar has considered this aspect of the question There is a great deal to be said, from the pay and emoluments which these underlings get, whether these temptations are not made greater by that element in the settlement operations, which is in a position to offer the temptations and that element is certainly not the tenant element.

This is a matter which I think should be considered by every zamindar, and I include myself in the category, for at present in Bengal perhaps the biggest zamindar to suffer is the poor Revenue Member himself, for whom the Kumar has shown such sympathy. What I mean to say is that we cannot take these personal matters into consideration but with regard to the charge made by the venerable Rai Bahadur of Hooghly against those underlings I would like to point out that the remedy would certainly not lie in largely cutting down our budget, or in simply reducing the staff, or in criticising the Settlement Officers or Assistant Settlement Officers, but we must consider what these reductions would mean in actual practice and how these kanungoes would have to be utilised in future. The I.C.S. officers are employed on survey and settlement operations in order to give them a training and experience in those operations, and not for any luxury or any other reason as he seems to think. On the other hand there is this additional ground against the reduction that, although they may not have experience, everyone can expect them to take remedial measures, if there be gross cases of *zulum* and extortion by the underlings brought to their notice regarding whom the Kumar has spoken with such heat. Now the Kumar, as I have said, blows hot and cold in the same breath. These underlings, whom he calls pocket editions of the Revenue Member himself, are very corrupt and if corruption were to increase by progressive stages as they proceed upwards then although he describes

the Revenue Member as an ideal man he must be a mountain of corruption, a monster of iniquity, a regular edition *de luxe* of corruption or from the point of view of height a mount Everest of corruption. If that were so I do not know how he could possibly expect any sympathy from me.

I shall try to be as brief as possible (for I am afraid the prayer hour is approaching) in replying to the main points raised by the Kumar and others. The Kumar's learned erudition and essay will, I hope, some day find a place in the Bodlean Library at Oxford but what we have got to consider is the real state of things. The movers of the resolution have already supported the curtailment of the settlement grants on one or other of the following grounds. The first is that the Settlement Department is getting an extremely expensive department, and therefore no provision should be made for it in the Budget, and the work should be stopped altogether. The answer to the utility of settlement operations has been partially given by Mr. Rhodes, namely, that it is the long delayed attempt to fulfil the promises of Government and it is necessary to complete them in all districts before necessary amendments of the Tenancy Act can be devised to meet the special needs of the province. With regard to the point that the process is expensive and should be simplified if possible, I think it will be admitted on all hands that, if the record-of-rights is to be prepared at all, it is best to have an accurate one, because a bad and an inaccurate record is worse than no record at all. The Bengal Government has been addressed over and over again by the Government of India as regards excessive cost of East Bengal settlements expenditure and it has been pointed out no appreciable reduction of expenditure is possible.

A great deal is said about the high rates; well, when we get to actual figures we find that the cost per acre is not much. For instance, in Rajshahi, it is little over 14 annas per acre. This includes not only the share of the tenants but also of the zamindars. In Jessore it will be about Re. 1. This will show that the plea of costs is exaggerated.

The third point is that the settlement operations may be delayed and the provincial programme completed more gradually in order to save a few lakhs, say Rs. 10,00,000 or Rs. 15,00,000 from the next few years' Budget. Some of the members here proposed a reduction on the ground of economy, but they have not explained how this curtailment should be made and whether the proposed curtailment of the present settlement programme meant the curtailment of the settlement operations now going on in the three districts. It is not clear whether they want to curtail the settlement programme for the districts, where work has not been started, or in districts where traverse survey alone has been done such as, Birbhum, Murshidabad and Khulna. Some members have suggested the curtailment of the settlement operations now in progress in these three districts. But, as I mentioned in asking for this grant,

that next year there would be an opportunity for the members of this Council to consider the programme, where there has been no traverse done, and also whether the general programme of survey should be retarded, or whether new traverse should not be taken up until the programme we have in hand is completed. If you were to curtail the programme, where traverse has already been made, we would have to start settlement operations anew and the inhabitants of each of these three districts would have to suffer a loss of Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000 roughly for nothing, because the sum which has already been spent will have to be spent again sooner or later. To give a concrete instance the total cost of traverse in the three districts in the present year, 1920-21, has been nearly Rs. 90,000. The cost calculated in the Budget under discussion is Rs. 1,66,000; if this amount were cut out we would still have to spend Rs. 36,000 in again putting up the pillars and other marks that might have been removed, to keep the work of the traverse from being obliterated. This would mean that the expenditure of Rs. 90,000 plus Rs. 36,000 will either have to be a loss to Government or what is more likely will have to be recovered from the zamindars or tenants at the time of the completion of the settlement operation, and I am sure the Council which must naturally be alive to the interests of the people and not plead merely the plea of economy, do not wish to bring on this extra burden on the districts which, in the long run, would happen when so much has already been spent on traverse.

Now with regard to the districts, where the work of settlement is already in progress, if the sum necessary to collect the amounts legally recoverable for records finally published in Jessore, Bankura and Nadia is disallowed, the saving will not be as great as movers may imagine, because there will be loss of recoveries under section 114 of the Bengal Tenancy Act on the receipt side of the Budget for 1921-22 and further the stopping of work in these three districts would mean a net loss in the Budgets of the next three years, as the cost of the work already done instead of being borne to the extent of 75 per cent. by the people of the districts benefited would fall on the shoulders of the tax-payers as a whole. The effect on the Budget of stopping work in Jessore, Bankura and Nadia, apart from a few thousand rupees for recoveries, would be as follows:—In 1921-22 diminution in expenditure would be only Rs. 21 lakhs and the decrease in receipts would be Rs. 9 lakhs therefore there would be a gain in 1921-22 of Rs. 12 lakhs. But now let us take the figures for the next year 1922-23; decrease in expenditure would be Rs. 14½ lakhs; decrease in receipts would be Rs. 21¾ lakhs. Therefore there would be a net loss of revenue to the State of Rs. 7,80,000. In 1923-24 the decrease in expenditure would be Rs. 9,34,000 and the decrease in receipts Rs. 20,09,000; therefore the loss to the State would be Rs. 11 lakhs and so forth. The reason for this is that not a single pie of the cost on settlement operations in any area can be recovered under section 114 of the Bengal Tenancy Act until the final publication

of that area is complete. The most expensive branch of the settlement operations are the traverse, cadastral survey and *bujharat* and attestation. The concluding stages, viz., objections under section 103A of the Bengal Tenancy Act, final publication and recovery, cost comparatively little, and case-work more than pays for itself, and in fact reduces the total cost of the operations. If the sum necessary for final publication and recovery is not passed by the Council, the loss to the State will be three-fourths of Rs. 700 × 800. To explain—An average block is generally 800 square miles, and the rate of cost is Rs. 700 per square mile. Therefore the total cost per square mile is Rs. 56,000 × $\frac{3}{4}$ and thus there is a loss of Rs. 4,20,000 to the Government. For instance, to take the concrete case of Nadia, where the A block is 900 square miles, the ordinary expenditure on that ratio would be Rs. 6 lakhs in all and the amount now recoverable comes to Rs. 2 lakhs. If we stop the work, we shall still be spending to a certain extent in completing the record and the result would be a loss of three-fourths of Rs. 15 lakhs in 3 years which will be distributed among the financial years in the following manner:—

In 1922-23	...	...	...	7 lakhs.
" 1923-24	...	...	...	7½ lakhs.
" 1924-25	...	...	...	1 lakh.

In these circumstances the Council will do well to deal carefully with the allotments and should not reduce them without considering what the loss to the State is likely to be. On the other hand to meet partly the arguments adduced by Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur of not having munsifs and other officers, I may say that this change of plan, if it was decided upon, would involve some decrease in the total cost of the operations it is true, but we shall have in any case to minimise our expense to a considerable sum. The wholesale discharge of kanungoes and the disbandment of the staff of amins, whom it is very hard to collect, as one or two speakers have suggested, is not a practical proposal. They are a body of useful public servants. Mr. Fazl-ul Haq, among others, moved a resolution in the old Bengal Legislative Council asking that every department should be thrown open to the kanungoes who had lost their appointments. If this curtailment were decided upon by the Council we would have to employ these kanungoes in more than one of our departments; they will have to be employed not only for the kind of work they do now but also as cadastral circle officers in place of several gazetted officers. It will also be necessary to ask for sub-deputy collectors instead of munsifs and deputy collectors. Whether the public as a whole would view this curtailment in the Budget with favour or the removal of munsifs and deputy-collectors I greatly doubt. Government think this move may not be popular, not only with the members of the Provincial Civil Service and their friends in this Council, but also with those who want munsifs to do this work and to gain experience.

I now turn to some of the points raised in the motion of the Kumar, because there he has made some direct accusation, especially in a letter which he has addressed to the members of the Legislative Council (a copy of which was sent to me) where he has tried to explain why he wants the figures to be reduced. He has noted that in the past the entire outlay on settlement operations was advanced by the Government of India and the provincial finances were not affected, but that under the new constitution we shall have to meet all this expenditure. The position was that in the past the entire cost was advanced by the Government of which one-fourth was met by this Government and three-fourths were recovered from landlords and tenants. From next year's revenue we will have to advance the cost, three-fourths of which will be recoverable in due course. Then of course the Kumar has quoted the figures to show that the expenditure on settlement operations has been gradually going up since 1914. The figures are misleading, because he ignores the credit on the other side, which consists partly of recoveries under section 114 and partly of receipts in court-fee stamps. According to the Budget of 1921-22 the cost of settlement operations in the province would be actually Rs. 5 lakhs and not Rs. 24½ lakhs, or including survey expenditure of about Rs. 2 lakhs, Rs. 7 lakhs because Rs. 16½ lakhs are shown among the revenue receipts and another Rs. 3 lakhs will also be credited to settlement either as miscellaneous receipts or court-fee stamps. Even this net expenditure of Rs. 7 lakhs is more than the settlement has cost the administration in the previous four years.

In the financial year 1916-17 the gross expenditure was Rs. 18 lakhs and receipts Rs. 33¾ lakhs.

In 1917-18 the expenditure was Rs. 18½ lakhs and the receipts Rs. 30 lakhs.

In 1918-19 the expenditure was Rs. 20¼ lakhs and the receipts were Rs. 27½ lakhs.

In 1919-20 the expenditure was Rs. 19½ lakhs and the receipts Rs. 23 lakhs.

Thus in the years 1916-17 and 1917-18 there was an excess of receipts over expenditure from the settlement operations of Rs. 15¾ and Rs. 11½ lakhs, respectively. Though the Kumar gave a grossly exaggerated idea of the effect of the settlement operations on the Budget, there is much foundation in his argument that during the last three years the net receipts has gradually diminished, until there is a net excess on the expenditure side of Rs. 7 lakhs, and the reason for this is the sudden curtailment of the settlement operations on the outbreak of the war. The same result will follow by any sudden curtailment of the work now, even the stoppage of the three new settlements, in which only one block traverse has been done.

There is one other point. The Kumar has proposed a reduction of Rs. 25,000 from Rs. 82,000 provided for minor operations. Out of this Rs. 82,000, Rs. 26,000 is recoverable from private and wards estates

for which settlement work is being done. This work cannot be left out and there are provisions for several settlement operations in khas mahals, three of which are included in the excluded areas. For all these reasons I would strongly advise this Council not to cut down the Budget so far as the survey and settlement is concerned. It is really to the benefit of the landlords and the tenants that we should complete the work that has been done partially. I may point out that, where one stage of traverse has been done in the three districts, it would cause a lot of inconvenience and hardship to the landlords and the tenants, when we finally recover the whole amount due from them when the work in each districts is completed. I think, therefore, that I have made it quite clear on behalf of Government that it would be unwise to cut down the Budget figures so far as they relate to survey and settlement operations. If next year, when the question of new traverse is taken up, the Council would like to go into the whole question, we shall be ready to consider it,

Colonel A. J. PUCH: I move that the question be now put.

The PRESIDENT: As all the movers have spoken the question will now be put.

The motions were then put in the following order :—

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA moved " that the demand under ' 5-Land Revenue ' be reduced by omitting from the Budget the whole amount provided for settlement operations in Khulna, Murshidabad and Birbhum."

The motion was put and lost.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI moved " that the demand under ' 5-Land Revenue ' be reduced by omitting from the Budget the whole amount provided for settlement operations in Khulna, Murshidabad and Birbhum."

The motion was put and lost.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY moved " that the demand for Rs. 2,73,000 under the head ' Survey Operation 5 A—Survey and Settlement ' be reduced by Rs. 63,000."

The motion was put and lost

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED moved " that the demand under head ' Detailed Account No. 5A—Survey and Settlement ' for Rs 2,73,000 be reduced by Rs. 35,288."

The motion was put and lost.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI moved " that the demand of Rs. 27,21,000 for survey and settlement operations be reduced by Rs. 16 lakhs."

The motion was put and lost.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur moved "that the demand for Rs. 27,21,000 for the survey and settlement operations be reduced by Rs. 9 lakhs."

The motion was put and lost.

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur moved "that the demand for survey and settlement operations be reduced by Rs. 8,21,000."

The motion was put and lost.

On the President declaring that he thought "the *Noes* had it," Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray called for a division.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I rise to a point of order. As almost the whole House is of opinion that no reduction should be made, is one single member competent to claim a division?

The PRESIDENT: Yes, as the rules stand any member can call for a division.

A division was then taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Barma Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Ghatak, Rai Sahib Nilmani.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hom Chandra.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Ray, Babu Bhabendra Chandra.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.

NOES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Afzal, Khan Bahadur, Nawabzada K. M.
Ali, Maulvi Syed Muksood.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr C. H.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cochran, Mr. A
Cohen. Mr. D. J.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das, Mr. S. R.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Donald, Mr. J.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Faroqui, Mr. K. G. M,
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder
Gordon, Mr. A. D.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Huq, Maulvi, Ekramul.
James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Law, Raja Reshee Case.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Marr, Mr. A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Morgan, Mr. G.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.

Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Raikat, Mr, Prasanna Deb.
Rhodes, Mr. C. W.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. J. E.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Watson-Smyth, Mr. R. M.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry
Wordeworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 22 and the Noes 64, the motion was lost.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI moved "that the demand under '5-Land Revenue' be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000 by the omission of the 'further sum of Rs. 2,00,000 proposed in the ensuing year's Budget for the appointment of additional circle officers.'"

I have not much time at my disposal. This is a matter in which I hope Government will be sympathetic. There may be some delay in considering what will be necessary and how far my suggestion can be accepted. With these words, I commend this resolution for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: This resolution has reference to a provision of Rs. 2,00,000 to which reference is made on page 28 of the Budget for the employment of circle officers.

That is made in accordance with the general policy of the encouragement and development of village government. It was about two years ago that, in the old Council, I was in charge of the Village Self-Government Bill, which passed into law with practical unanimity as to its main principles. The fundamental object of that measure was to create small self-governing bodies in individual village or groups of villages by a system of union boards, and since the passing of the Act, district officers have been busy introducing this arrangement. The latest figure I have of the number of union boards now in existence is 1,639, and their formation has been greatly helped and facilitated by the presence of these circle officers. I would go further and say that the presence of these circle officers is essential to the future prosperity of these bodies. The villagers in many instances are men of little experience in these matters, and they require the help and advice of these officers, who can get into close touch with them and instruct them as to what their powers are under the law, and encourage them to make use of them. Without such an agency the history of union boards, will be the history over again of the old chaukidari panchayets, which failed largely by reason of the absence of special officers to look after them. In their absence the chaukidari panchayets were inevitably left to the supervision of the thana sub-inspector, and according to the finding of various officers who enquired into the matter—myself among them—that was one of the chief reasons why the system was not the success that Government hoped it would be. In connection with union boards we wish to avoid that mistake. At present we have 150 sub-deputy

collectors specially recruited for this purpose, of whom 76 are at present working as circle officers. It is impossible to utilise a new recruit as a circle officer until he is trained, and he is not of much use until he has had at least 4 years' experience. Therefore, it is necessary to look ahead. We have now, as I have said, 150 men, 76 of whom are working, and 74 are coming on, and will be available in the course of the next two or three years. By this provision of Rs. 2 lakhs it was intended to recruit 60 more men, with the idea that they would ripen about 3 or 4 years hence, when the men whom we have now are all at work, and from that point of view this provision is fully justified. The general argument of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, is, as I understand, that we should make any possible saving in the Budget, where that can be done without absolute detriment to the administration. After talking to the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea who, as Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government, is keenly interested in this question, we are agreed that although there will probably be plenty of work for these 60 men, yet it is possible, without endangering the success of this system of village self-government, to go a little slower. If it is the general wish of the Council that we should slacken the pace we are willing to give effect to this, and to recruit 30 instead of 60 men as originally proposed, thereby effecting a saving of about a lakh of rupees. I think this can be safely done without undue risk. It is very difficult to forecast the rate of progress in the formation of these unions; this has been fairly rapid in the recent past, but this has possibly been because we have naturally been working first in those areas which lend themselves best to this form of development. When we get to more backward areas progress may be slower. It is difficult, therefore, to make an accurate forecast, but, as far as we can see, if the Council so wish, economy can be effected without much harm, and no objection will be raised on the part of Government should the Council decide to do so.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I have heard the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, and this is exactly what we want. Without interfering with the efficiency of the administration, if economy can be effected, it should be; in this, the Government and the peoples' representatives are at one. I hope the House will accept my motion and that it will be carried.

The PRESIDENT: Your original motion was that Rs. 2 lakhs be omitted. That was not the motion as accepted by Government.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: Yes, that was my original motion. I now wish to amend it.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I desire to associate myself as being the Minister in charge of the Department of

Local Self-Government with the observations made by the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler. We are most anxious that the experiment of union boards should be pushed on, and I have just instructed district officers to exert themselves in this direction. Eastern Bengal is, I believe, ahead of Western Bengal in this respect; there is no reason why Western Bengal should not emulate and follow the example of East Bengal. It is necessary that the experiment should be pushed on, but a provision of 30 circle officers instead of 60 for the present should suffice. It is most important that the experiment should be stimulated; 30 officers will be ample for the present. I am very glad that my Hon'ble friend has accepted the suggestion of the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler.

The PRESIDENT: I think the motion, as amended, may now be put to the vote. It will now run: "That the demand in '5—Land Revenue' be reduced by Rs. 1 lakh by the omission of Rs. 1 lakh out of the further sum of Rs. 2 lakhs proposed in the ensuing year's Budget for the appointment of additional circle officers."

The motion, as amended, was then carried.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI moved "that the demand under '5—Land Revenue' be reduced by Rs. 25,000 by the omission from the Budget of the provision for the establishment of the Hijli district."

With regard to this motion, I have a suggestion to offer. As there is another motion, under the head 'Administration' I believe, for the curtailment of the expenses for the partition of the district of Midnapore, if that motion is carried, this will go of itself. We may await the result of that motion. If my suggestion will be accepted by Government, I would ask permission to withdraw this motion."

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I understand that Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri is desirous of withdrawing this motion. He can do so with safety. There are five motions dealing with the partition of Midnapore—Nos. 153 to 157. If these motions are carried—I shall oppose them myself—then the provision for establishment in the new Hijli district will automatically drop out; no establishment will be required for a district which would then be non-existent, and no money will be spent. The Hon'ble Member is perfectly safe in withdrawing the present motion without endangering the object which he has in view.

The motion was then, by leave, withdrawn.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI moved "that the demand under '5—Land Revenue' be reduced by Rs. 1,17,000 by the omission of the sum provided for colonisation in the Sunderbunds."

The general opinion of the Council is that those schemes which are urgent should be taken up, but those, which are not so, should be postponed. This scheme though remunerative will not be immediately so. The Hon'ble Mr. Kerr has suggested three ways in which the deficit in the Budget may be met, first by taxation, second by curtailment of expenditure, and third by encroaching on the closing balances. This is a scheme which can be postponed. Colonisation is not a thing which should be undertaken by borrowing; we are practically borrowing the money from the reserve funds, or from earmarked grants. Borrowing is not encouraged even in ordinary household affairs. This is not a very urgent scheme. The value of land is increasing, and there is a demand on the part of rich people to get land, wherever possible, as in the case of tea gardens in Assam and the hill districts; also for colonisation and utilisation of waste lands. This may be done without incurring expenditure on the part of Government. A committee will shortly be formed and attached to each department, who will have the benefit of scrutinising schemes and deciding on their urgency or otherwise. I think that accepting the principle laid down by the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr, regarding curtailment of expenditure, we should wait for a year and then carry out this work. I do not mean that waste land should be allowed to remain uncultivated, but I do think that we should wait until we are able to incur the expenditure. In this view I suggest that this provision may be omitted. With these words, I commend the motion to the acceptance of the House.

Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: I am extremely sorry that I have to oppose my friend Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri. Evidently he has very little experience of "Sunderbunds" colonisation. Much excellent work is being done, at any rate, in the Sunderbunds within the district of Bakarganj. If my friend ever goes there and sees how really a howling wilderness is being converted into smiling paddy fields, how tenants have settled there quite happily under an enterprising colonisation officer, I am sure he will change his opinion. Co-operative societies, co-operative stores have been started for the benefit of the tenantry, and there is no doubt that within a few years, the returns from the Sunderbunds colonisation scheme will be very satisfactory. Well, we are all out for retrenchment, but at the same time we should not (retrench) on projects, which are bound to be remunerative within a very few years. Work has been started, much money has been laid out, and I think it has been very prudent on the part of Government to provide this amount in the Budget, and I think my friend, without much experience of Sunderbunds colonisation cannot understand the situation. I was told by my friend that colonisation work in the 24-Parganas was not a success—well, I do not know anything about that—but I do know that the colonisation work in Bakarganj, has been going on beautifully, and I can assure the House that money spent on

it, will not be spent in vain. I strongly oppose the amendment proposed by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I am afraid that if Kishori Babu's principle of curtailment were to be adopted by this Council, he would be reducing our receipt side very much, and what is more, I don't think that the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr ever proposed curtailment of this nature, because he is out for more money than anybody else in this Council. He has got to justify his existence as Finance Member of the Government in trying to get as much money as possible for the members of this Council to spend for the benefit of this province. I cannot follow the argument that a remunerative piece of work should be delayed; I should have thought that, if it be remunerative, the sooner we can make it a paying concern, the better for the province and its revenues. But I think that a few words from me will explain what the position is, and, after the very clear statement made by the representative from the rural area of Barisal, Babu Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta, I am sure Kishori Babu will be convinced that there is no reason to cut down this figure. The motion is that the demand for colonisation in the Sunderbunds be reduced. This amount is included in the Rs. 2,75,000 provided for outlay on improvements on page 33 of the Budget estimates. The original estimate framed by the Board of Revenue was for a larger amount, Rs. 3,25,000; the Financial Department made a lump sum reduction; it is not therefore possible to show the details of this Rs. 2,75,000. The amount includes under various items the sum of Rs. 1,72,000 provided for colonisation in the Sunderbunds. The scheme for colonisation was started in 1907 in the Bakarganj district as an experiment in raiyatwari settlement in place of the farming leases to capitalists, the failure of which in the 24-Parganas is well-known. The results have been very satisfactory; there is ample evidence in Mr. Ascoli's valuable report. I do not think I need read out any extract from the report; but from what the gentleman from Bakarganj himself has said, that this scheme has converted a howling wilderness into a smiling countryside. I do not think that any other certificate is required by the House as to what the effect of such colonisation is.

According to the original programme, the colonisation was expected to be accomplished in 50 years at a total expenditure of Rs. 25 lakhs; more than half the work has already been completed in 12 years, at a total cost in improvements of Rs. 5 lakhs and in management of a little more than Rs. 2 lakhs. During this period apart from land revenue which has amounted to Rs. 3¼ lakhs, Government has obtained an income of about Rs. 2¾ lakhs from forest produce in grazing rights, so that already the income is only Rs. 1 lakh less than the total capital invested in the colonisation scheme. The success of the scheme in Bakarganj has led Government to introduce a similar scheme in the

24-Parganas Sunderbunds, where a Sub-Deputy Collector specially trained under the Colonization Officer of Bakarganj has been working.

The total sum of Rs. 1,17,000 to be spent on the colonisation establishment is made up as follows:—

(*i*) Special grant for colonisation work in Bakarganj Sunderbunds	80,000
(*ii*) Colonisation office building at Rhepupara in Bakarganj	5,000
(*iii*) Special grant for colonisation work in the 24-Parganas Sunderbunds, which is reclamation work in the Saugor island	32,000

From the experience already gained, I may confidently say that the proposed expenditure will soon result in a considerable increase of revenue. That being so, I do not think that the mover of the motion will be doing either to the Government or to the province an act of service by pressing for it; and I hope that he will withdraw it.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I am sorry that these informations were not supplied in the explanatory notes either in the Budget or in the detailed accounts of expenditure. After hearing what Mr. Das Gupta has said and also in view of the fact that the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur has shown that the work is really emergent and that a large sum has already been spent and more money should be spent in order that the scheme may be remunerative, I do not think that I shall be justified in pressing this motion. I therefore ask for the permission of this House to withdraw it.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The PRESIDENT: The next item (No. 17) has, through an oversight, been placed under the head of "Land Revenue"; but it should come under the head of "General Administration," and it will be taken up under that head.

The original demand (item No.3) of the Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan was for Rs. 69,32,000, of which there has been a reduction of Rs. 1,00,000. The result is that I have to put to vote the demand that a sum of Rs. 68,32,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "5.—Land Revenue."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur moved "that a sum of Rs. 16,01,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '6 Excise."

I beg to move that a demand of Rs. 16,01,000 be voted by this Council as the grant under the head "6—Excise" for the year 1921-22. To take the last item, which is the smallest, first, I wish to explain that with a view to obviate the unnecessary swelling of the revenue and expenditure accounts, the Government of India have ordered that all

refunds from revenue, in the Civil Estimates and in the accounts, must be shown as deductions from the actual collections. As, however, all revenue collected is deposited in full into the treasury, refunds which represent the repayment of excess amounts collected, are really expenditure which requires the vote of the Council and are, therefore, included in the demand for grant.

It will be seen that the total estimate for the expenditure of the department exceeds the revised estimate of expenditure during the current year by Rs. 4,41,000. This includes a lump provision of Rs. 3,85,000 for the revision of pay of Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents and Inspectors of Excise. In view of the increases of pay granted to other departments and to officers of similar status, it is inevitable that the pay of the superior establishment of the Excise Department should also be increased. The estimated receipts under the head "Excise" for the coming year amount to the large sum of Rs. 2 crores and 8 lakhs. For the protection of the large revenue and to ensure its regular collection, it is essential that the department should be efficiently administered. When the department was re-organised in 1915, Government aimed at securing as Superintendents of Excise, officers of the same standing and qualifications as the members of the Bengal Civil Service. Similarly, the pay of Inspectors of Excise was fixed with a view to attracting recruits of the same class as Sub-Deputy Magistrates. Government can claim that their policy has been successful. The Excise Department has secured able and energetic officers, who have proved their fitness for their duties and responsibilities, and the standard of administration in the department is a high one.

In order that there should be no diminution in their efficiency and that Government, while discouraging excessive consumption of excisable articles, should derive the maximum revenue from their sale, it is essential that the officers of the department should be contented and in a frame of mind to devote the whole of their energies to the discharge of their duties. Further, it is necessary that there should be no falling off in the standard of recruits, and that the department should continue to secure officers of the present type. The pay of the Bengal Civil Service has been substantially improved and the increase of pay of the Sub-Deputy Collectors is under consideration. It is, therefore, essential that the pay of the Superintendents and Inspectors should be revised, if the existing standard of efficiency is to be maintained and recruits of the stamp hitherto secured are to be obtained in future. The provision for this revision of pay accounts for the bulk of the excess of estimated expenditure for 1921-22 over this year's revised estimate. The balance is only Rs. 56,000 and this is required not for the introduction of new schemes but merely to meet the normal growth in the expenditure of the Department. I ask the Council to vote this grant.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR moved "that a sum of Rs. 7,51,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '7.—Stamps.'"

This is one of the few heads of the Budget on which the Finance Department can look with undiluted pleasure, because for an expenditure of Rs. 6½ lakhs, we get a revenue of Rs. 3 crores. If there were a few more heads like this, our financial position would be very different from what it is. Out of this expenditure of Rs. 7½ lakhs, there is an item of Rs. 29,000 for Superintendence which represents the pay of the Probate Deputy Collector at Calcutta and his establishment. The rest of the expenditure is due entirely to the cost of the paper which we use for these stamps and which we obtain from the Central Stores, and to the discount which we pay to stamp-vendors for selling the stamps. I do not think that I need take up the time of the Council by explaining the items in further detail and I beg formally to move that the demand be granted.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The PRESIDENT: I wish to point out to members that the figures given in the List of Business are not always correct as they were taken from the old Budget Estimates. The correct figures will be found in the revised Budget that has been handed over to the Members of the Council.

I desire to congratulate members for economising the time so well, and the result is that instead of detaining you till 7-15 P.M., I am able to adjourn the Council at 7 o'clock to-day.

Adjournment.

The Council was adjourned till 3 o'clock on Tuesday, the 15th March, 1921.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 15th March, 1921, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Executive Members, the Hon'ble the three Ministers and 118 nominated and elected members.

Voting of Grants.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): Order! Order! The Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan) moved "that a sum of Rs. 9,72,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '8 Forests.'"

I wish to explain that it is with a view to obviate an unnecessary swelling of revenue and expenditure that the Government of India have ordered that all refunds from Revenue and the Civil Estimates must be shown as deductions from the actual collection. As, however, all the revenues collected are put into the Treasury, the refunds which represent the repayment of excess amount are really expenditure which require the vote of the Council and are therefore included in the demand for grant. As there are four motions to reduce the proposed grant for expenditure on Forests, I think, I should make a few general observations. Mr. D. C. Ghose has proposed a general reduction of Rs. 4 lakhs. Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur has moved for a reduction of the conservancy and works grant from Rs. 6,06,700 to Rs. 5,98,000 whilst Maulvi Fazl-ul-Haq would refuse the demand for Khedda operations and Babu Surendra Nath Ray would refuse the demand of Rs. 37,000 for five temporary forest officers.

As a perusal of the Forest Administration will show, the work of the Forest Department is not limited to the exploitation of the Forest as a profit-making concern, but in considering the Budget Estimate it is perhaps to this aspect of Forest work that the Council will devote most attention. From this point of view it must be admitted that the figures in the Budget Estimates compare unfavourably with those of past years. In 1918-19, the most profitable year the Forests have had, a profit of over Rs. 11,00,000 was obtained, whilst the expenditure was only Rs. 8,75,000. In 1919-20 the expenditure was Rs. 9,75,000 and the profit a little over Rs. 10,00,000. In the current year, 1920-21 it is

expected that the total expenditure will be a little below Rs. 12,00,000 and the profit Rs. 10,00,000. The Budget Estimate now submitted to the Council shows an expenditure of over Rs. 15,50,000 and a profit of less than Rs. 7,50,000.

The reasons for this decreasing ratio of profits to expenditure are various. The Forest Department has not escaped the force of the world-wide economic changes which have increased the cost of production; wages have increased and the cost of all work, both in labour and materials, has increased. The Forests too have been and will be affected by the general depression in trade. The high profit of the year 1918-1919 was due largely to the demand of the Munitions Board for timber, a demand which has now ceased. It can only be expected that the present stagnation of trade will result in further diminution in the demand for forest produce. On the other hand not only has the cost of everything risen but the department is faced with the necessity of making good the deterioration caused by the economy in past years which was necessitated by the war. The position is in fact very similar to that of the railways, which made large profits during the war owing to an increased traffic and enforced reduction of expenditure, but are now faced not only with higher running costs but also with the necessity of a large expenditure on making good the wastage caused by the impossibility of making necessary repairs and replacements during the war. The amount spent in the forests on Communications and Building in 1914-15 was Rs. 1,13,262. In the next five years the amounts were Rs. 67,688, Rs. 64,548, Rs. 50,625, Rs. 56,299 and Rs. 76,900. In other words, whilst according to the standard of 1914-15 a sum of more than Rs. 5,50,000 should have been spent during the five years, the sum actually spent was about Rs. 3,16,000. The consequent deterioration has now to be made good, if the value of the forests to the province is to be restored and maintained, and if permanent deterioration is to be avoided.

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur withdrew the following motion: "That the demand of Rs. 6,06,700 under head '8.—Conservancy and Works' be reduced to Rs. 5,98,000."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ moved "that the demand of Rs. 50,000 for Khedda operations in Chittagong be refused."

With reference to this motion suggesting that the demand of Rs. 50,000 for Khedda operations in Chittagong be refused, I beg to submit that after I gave notice of this motion, I have had a discussion with my friends in this Council and I have been advised not to press this motion. I, therefore, beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave, withdrawn.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY moved "that the demand of Rs. 37,000 for the appointment of five temporary forest officers in the Imperial cadre be refused."

I think that by the clear exposition of the facts, the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan has made out a stronger case than I could have done in support of my motion. He said just now that we have had an income of about Rs. 7,00,000, whereas we shall have to incur an expenditure of about Rs. 15,00,000. So that in the year of present stress we are going to add the pay of another five gentlemen to the Imperial Service cadre. It may not be known to most of the members of this House that last year three gentlemen were appointed in the Imperial Service cadre and again later on another gentleman was taken in from the Provincial Executive Service. Altogether four gentlemen were appointed last year in the Imperial Service cadre, although there was sanction only for two. What was the result? The men who were appointed had absolutely no qualifications for the posts, they were pitchforked into these appointments and three of the gentlemen had to leave their posts. One of them was appointed on the 5th February, another on the 22nd February and the third on the the 27th April in 1920, so that their pay for about 8 or 9 months was absolutely wasted. And why? Because men in the Provincial Service, who were far superior to them in education and in forest training were not promoted to the Imperial Cadre, but men, who had absolutely no claims for appointment, were brought in. This is what I find in the Gazette of the 9th March: "The work in the divisions was adversely affected by the loss of several officers and other changes in staff. Two Deputy Conservators resigned and a third retired. Five temporary posts were created, but the three officers appointed did not stay long enough to do useful work." So that Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 were absolutely wasted And again: "The Governor in Council trusts that the recent reorganization of the pay and prospects of the Imperial and Provincial Forest Services will secure for the province a more adequate and less changing staff." It is well-known that members of the Provincial Forest Service are generally men, who have passed their B.Sc or M.Sc. from Calcutta or some other University, and they get—a training of at least two years at Dehra Dun and another two years as Forest Rangers—so that they get a training for four or five years altogether before they are appointed to the Provincial Service on Rs. 150; whereas the men, who are appointed directly to the Imperial Service, get a salary of Rs 450 to Rs. 650 as Assistant Conservators and Rs. 700 to Rs. 1,600 as Deputy Conservators. When by promoting men from the Provincial Service you can get better work, why should you bring in men from outside to fill up apointments in the Imperial Service Cadre? You say that you require only temporary men. If that is so, why not temporarily promote these Provincial Service men, and see whether they are fit or not. If, after a period, they are found to be unfit,

they could be relegated to their former position, but first give them a trial. It may be asked why a Deputy Magistrate was pitch-forked into the Imperial Service. Probably his qualification for the post was that he knew a little surveying. But it must be remembered that at Dehra Dun the Provincial Service men also get a training in surveying, and they are quite competent to discharge surveying duties. Under these circumstances, I would propose that Rs. 37,000 which works out at Rs. 616 per month for each man be not sanctioned. If it is necessary to have five men in the Imperial Cadre, they may be promoted from the Provincial Service.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE moved "that the demand for grant for '8—Forests' be reduced by Rs. 4,00,000."

The reduction of Rs. 4,00,000 that I move is from Rs. 9,72,000 which the Hon'ble Member asks from the Council under the head of "Forests." It will appear from the details given in the Budget Estimates at page 38 that the proposed total expenditure in the Department of Forests for the year 1921-22 is Rs 15,63,000. Of this amount, only items of expenditure comprising Rs. 9,72,000 have been submitted to the vote of the Council, the rest consisting of nearly Rs. 6,00,000 have been withdrawn from the control of the Council on the ground, I suppose, that the expenditure will be incurred in the excluded areas. So that out of Rs. 15,63,000 which will be spent on Forests, this House has got control only over Rs. 9,72,000. Now, Sir, I venture to think that in this year of heavy deficit the proposed total expenditure of Rs 15,63,000 in the Department of Forests is unjustifiable. Let me give the Council the actual expenditure in the Department of Forests for a number of years.

In 1912-13 it was Rs. 6,60,000, in 1913-14 Rs. 6,40,000, in 1914-15 Rs. 6,70,000, in 1915-16 Rs. 5,93,000, in 1916-17 Rs. 6,19,000, in 1917-18 Rs. 7,39,000, in 1918-19 Rs. 8,20,000, in 1919-20 Rs. 9,72,000 and in 1920-21 Rs. 11,90,000.

Now the average expenditure of the last 9 years works out at Rs. 7,68,000. If the House were to accede to my proposition, the Department of Forests would still have at its disposal Rs. 11,63,000. This amount, I may inform the Council, is more than 50 per cent. over the average expenditure in the Department of Forests for the last nine years. I submit, therefore, that the total expenditure, which I ask the Council to allow in the Department of Forests, is by no means niggardly or unreasonable. It may be said that increased expenditure in the Department of Forests is justifiable on the ground that it will produce satisfactory financial results. But, Sir, it appears from the figures published in the last *Calcutta Gazette* that an increase in expenditure in the Department of Forests does not yield an increase in revenue.

There is another ground upon which I base my motion for the reduction of the grant. It will be in the recollection of most of us that many of the leading representatives of our countrymen had asked that Forests

should be one of the transferred subjects. That demand has been acceded to in Bombay, where Forests is a transferred subject. But in Bengal not only is Forests a reserved subject, but what is worse, expenditure to the extent of Rs. 6,00,000 has been withdrawn from the control of the Council on the plea that it will be incurred in the excluded areas. I may point out to the Council that what is withdrawn from our control is equal to the entire expenditure in the Department of Forests five or six years ago. So that the expenditure over which we have no control is by no means small or insignificant. I am aware that Government justify the withdrawal of expenditure in the excluded areas on the ground that they are empowered to do so by a notification issued by the Government of India with the sanction of the Secretary of State. Sir, I have read this notification very carefully and I venture to think that it is extremely doubtful———

The PRESIDENT: I do not [illegible] think you are entitled to question that.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I will drop the point since I am not allowed to discuss the matter which I thought was relevant. Since we have no control over expenditure to the extent of nearly Rs. 6,00,000 and since we find that the total expenditure in the Department of Forests is much too high and extravagant, I submit that the department should be content with Rs. 11,63,000 which, as I have pointed out already, is more than 50 per cent. of the average expenditure of the last nine years.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I do not know whether Babu Surendra Nath Ray has withdrawn his motion, but if you will kindly permit me, I should just like to say a word or two on his motion.

The PRESIDENT: Yes, it is a general debate. The original motion as well as the amendments are to be debated together.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I only want to mention one fact. From what I have personally observed, we find that all practical works are done by the Indian officers such as Rangers, Deputy Rangers and other people of the Forest Department. There is hardly any reason why the number of such highly paid officers in the Imperial Cadre should be increased by another four gentlemen this year. The more we can indianise the Service, the cheaper we can run the administration; and for that particular reason, I heartily support the motion put forward by Babu Surendra Nath Ray.

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: We should be very cautious in considering the motion for reduction of grants under Forests; this is more imperious in view of the prospects of permanent deficit in our Budget, as the Forest Department is certainly one of the few productive departments, where, under proper handling and careful consideration, a systematic increase in revenues can be confidently expected to relieve the situation. Indian timber is being gradually appreciated in the

foreign market, and, if along with it, factories can be started to obtain forest products and bye-products as in the United Provinces and other Provinces, it will not only add substantially to the depleted treasury, but give an impetus to this neglected branch of industry. Again, on a proper upkeep of the forest depends to a great extent the distribution of monsoons, so essential to the climate and rainfall in an agricultural country like ours.

That is why I am anxious to see that the department gets its just requirements, both for its efficient working and proper development.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I have much pleasure in seconding the amendment of Babu Surendra Nath Ray. It appears from the Budget that, though the estimated increase of income is Rs. 1,00,000 and the estimated increase of expenditure is Rs. 3,37,000, I do not think we would be justified in making this increment having regard to the fact that the income is not commensurate with additional expenditure. But I am sorry, Sir, I do not agree with Mr. D. C. Ghose when he says that there should be a curtailment of Rs. 4,00,000. I am afraid that will affect the efficiency of the department.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: There are four motions with regard to the reduction of expenditure. Two motions have been withdrawn and we have, therefore to deal with the remaining two. Before I deal with the motion of Mr. D. C. Ghose—and I will deal with all the motions very briefly in any case—I propose to take up the motion moved by Babu Surendra Nath Ray. I think my friend's main objection is not so much relating to the appointment of officers in the Forest Department as to the class of officers recruited for that department, and he has based a good deal of his argument on this motion, which perhaps would have been more relevant, if a general discussion had taken place on a resolution as to whether for the Forest Department, Imperial Service Officers should be recruited or officers from the Provincial Service should be appointed. I do not propose, therefore, to go into that question but shall go largely over the motion before the House. When the department estimated Rs. 37,000 for five temporary officers sanction had not been obtained. Since then three probationers—Imperial Forest Service officers—have been appointed by the Secretary of State and therefore their pay which will be Rs. 17,100 out of Rs. 37,000 now becomes a non-voted item. Of the other three only two temporary officers have been appointed —one on a salary of Rs. 700 and the other on a salary of Rs. 650. They also will receive an allowance of Rs. 50 each a month. These officers have been appointed for a term of two years and, therefore, it is clear that for these two years we cannot turn them out. They were appointed when there was the serious shortage of officers, regarding which mention has been made by Babu Surendra Nath Ray. He said that he based his argument on the plea that the Provincial Service men were as useful, and that they could be appointed, as these officers who had been appointed

had left. That is true. But the reasons that he has adduced for this departure I, on behalf of the Government, am not prepared to accept. But these sudden vacancies make it all the more necessary for us to budget for an extra number of men. That is to say, when there was this serious shortage of men, we naturally had to recruit and to get more men to carry on the normal work of the department; and, as I have explained, of the five temporary officers three have been appointed as probationers in the Imperial Forest Service by the Secretary of State and, therefore, it is a non-voted item. The other two temporary officers have been budgeted and there again we are really under a contract as we have bound ourselves.

Under these circumstances I think it is clear to the House that at the present stage it is quite impossible for Government either to accept the motion or for the House to adopt it.

I shall now go on to the more sweeping pruning of the Forest Department that has been suggested by Mr. D. C. Ghose. It is very easy to suggest a lump reduction because the difficulty to the proposer is not the same as to the person who has got to prune his Budget by cutting out the unnecessary items and leaving those that are absolutely necessary. If my friend had been in charge of the Forest Department, he would have seen how impossible it is to cut down arbitrarily Rs. 4,00,000 or any figure for that matter. But what I want to point out is this. I am sorry in one way that my friend Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq did not move his motion regarding Khedda operations because I could have shown to the Council that that was an item in point regarding which it is distinctly advantageous to the State—to the revenues of the province—to carry on Khedda operations. Now, for example, what do we gain by the Khedda operations. I would just give what was the result of similar operations in 1919-20. The cost of the operations was Rs. 52,000 in all. The result was an increase of revenue, which fetched Rs. 73,468. The net profit to the province was, therefore, Rs. 21,000 and odd. Well, having dealt with the item of Rs. 70,000 Mr. Ghose might very well say "I am quite prepared to cut down my figure by Rs. 70,000" and to this I would ask whether it is reasonable for him to reduce the Budget Estimate by Rs. 4,00,000 or it is reasonable for this Council to accept the proposal. As I have mentioned, during the war we had to move slowly. In consequence we have now got to spend more money not only to replace deteriorations that have taken place, putting in new bridges, repairing communications in the forests, because unless you have proper communications your timber cannot come in, but we have also got to lay out more to make up for the loss that we have sustained during the years of the war. Although there has been a ruling from the chair with regard to questions of expenditure relating to excluded areas and although I do not wish to disobey that, I want to mention items——

The PRESIDENT: All that I ruled was that, if any amount was not included in the demands by Government, the question whether it was

rightly or wrongly excluded does not arise. Members must confine themselves only to those sums which are included in the voted items.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: What I wanted to explain was what the non-voted items represent. If we look at the Budget we find it is quite correct that on page 40 there is an item of Rs. 2,91,000 in all. That certainly does not include only expenditure in the excluded area, but also if we looked at the other items on page 41, it would be found that there is a very large amount non-voted for the simple reason that they relate to Imperial Services, and therefore I think that for a man of the intelligence of my friend here it is rather a narrow view to take that because we cannot touch Rs. 6,00,000 although we have a right to vote Rs. 9,00,000, therefore cut down Rs. 4,00,000. I say cut down any figure in the Budget, but don't cut down any figure if it is a loss to the State—to the province—to the revenue of the province. What is more? He has quoted several years' expenditure, and most of the years, which he has quoted, relate to the years during which the war was going on, but I can quote here just two figures to explain a point which has only been just touched upon by Mr. Fanindralal De. I am sorry I have not got the figures and the detailed information as to the outlay made by the United Provinces Government with regard to Forests, but I believe it is true that the United Provinces Government made a very large outlay and in consequence they have had a very handsome return in the way of additional revenue. Now, during the war in 1915-16, the total revenue was Rs. 11,45,000 and the profit was Rs. 5,51,000, the total outlay that year being Rs. 5,93,000. Now in 1920-21 the total outlay was Rs. 11,19,000 and the profit was Rs. 10,90,000. This shows that if we increase the outlay on expenditure it is bound to increase the revenue of the province, and as such I do not think that this Council would be justified in cutting down the figures in the Forest estimates, when we know that the item of Forests is really an item of revenue and a productive item to the province. I therefore hope that this Council will not accept the motion.

The amended motion of Babu Surendra Nath Ray, that the demand for the grant for the appointment of temporary forest officers (Rs. 19,900) be refused, was then put to the vote.

A division was taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir.
Ali, Maulvi Syed Muksood.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Barma Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Basu, Rai Bahadur Nalinaksha.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra
Birla, Babu Chaneshyamdas.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra

Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Faroqui, Mr. K. C. M,
Chatak, Rai Sahib Nilmani.
Chose, Mr. D. C.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray, Babu Bhabendra Chandra.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh.
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.

NOES.

Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr C. H.
Campbell, Mr. J.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cochran, Mr. A.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
Da, Babu Fanindralal.
Donald, Mr. J.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Gordon, Mr. A. D.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Hopkyns, Mr W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Law, Raja Reshee Case.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Marr, Mr. A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Morgan, Mr. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Rhodes, Mr. C. W.,
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.
Roy, Mr. J. E.
Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Watson-Smyth, Mr. R. M.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 62 and the Noes 40, the motion was carried.

Mr. D. C. CHOSE: I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The following motion was then, by leave, withdrawn:—" That the demand for grant for ' 8—Forests ' be reduced by Rs. 4,00,000."

The original demand, as amended, for " 8—Forests " was then put and agreed to.

Minister in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter) moved " that a demand of Rs. 16,11,000 be voted by the Council as the grant under head '9—Registration ' for the year 1921-22."

I may explain that with a view to obviate the unnecessary swelling of the revenue and expenditure accounts, the Government of India have directed that all funds from the revenue in the Civil Estimates and the

accounts must be shown as deductions from the actual collections. As, however, all revenues are collected and deposited in full with the Treasury, the refunds, which represent the excess amount collected, are really expenditure which requires the vote of the Council and are therefore included in the demands for grants.

The estimate of expenditure for next year has been drawn up with an eye to economy. Only the most necessary and essential developments are provided for and many desirable reforms have had to be deferred. Provision of Rs. 20,000 has been made for opening new registry offices to cope with the increasing work of the department and the small sum of Rs. 10,000 has been put down for furniture and for the binding and rebinding of registers. As explained in the Budget statement this sum will only serve to make up in part for past arrears. Owing to the enforced economy due to the war, it has not been possible to provide sufficient funds in the past for furniture and binding of books, many of the registration offices are not provided with the necessary furniture, and there has also been a very large accumulation of books and indexes in each district record room, which require rebinding. By far the most important item of new expenditure is Rs. 75,000 on account of the revision of pay of Sub-Registrars. The pay and prospects of other services have been improved, but no readjustment has yet been made in the case of Sub-Registrars to enable them to meet the increased cost of living which is one of the conditions of modern life. They are feeling the pinch, and it is recognized that an improvement of their terms of service can no longer be deferred. I have recently been considering their case, and only a few days ago received a deputation from them. I am at present not in a position to say what improvements will be made as that is a matter which will have to be referred to the Finance Department, but, so far as it lies with me, I shall certainly try for such improvements as the officers of the Registration Department may justly and legitimately ask for. In the meantime, however, the modest sum of Rs. 75,000 has been provided in the Budget so far to enable a revision of pay to be made.

I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 16,11,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "9—Registration."

The motion was then put and agreed to.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan) moved "that a sum of Rs. 47,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '15—Miscellaneous Irrigation Expenditure.'"

This includes just the ordinary maintenance charges of the Eden Canal together with a provision of constructing a distributor required at Godagari, which is necessary for the proper irrigation of the area commanded by the proposed distributor. There is nothing special in the provision, and I hope that the House will vote this grant.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN moved "that a sum of Rs. 1,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '16—Construction of Irrigation Works.'"

The motion was put and agreed to.

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler) moved "that the demand of Rs. 23,43,000 be voted by this Council as the grant under the head '22—General Administration' for the year 1921-22."

This grant deals with some of the higher executive officials in the province, commencing with the Governor, his staff and the expenses connected with the upkeep of his position. The Council will notice that there is an appreciable increase under the head of Staff and Household of the Governor, and this is one of the minor results of the financial system under the Reforms, under which the salaries of the Military Secretary and the Aides-de-Camp, which formerly used to be borne on the Army Estimates, have now been held to be provincial expenditure which we have to meet. On the other hand, there is a substantial reduction under "Tour Expenses," due to the fact that this year we had to construct a new metre gauge saloon for His Excellency.

The next item concerns the Executive Council, including therein both Members and Ministers, and, as a result of the Reforms and the increase in the number of Members and Ministers, this shows an increase. Following that, we come to the Legislative Council, and there again a substantial rise is visible, due to the fact that we now have a paid President, a Deputy President, and the heavy expenditure connected with the enlarged Council of 139 members, compared with approximately 50 or 60 before the Reforms. The Civil Secretariat, which figures next, also exhibits an increase, mainly attributable to the fact that a fifth Secretary has been found necessary in connection with the re-organisation of the Executive Government, while the pay of the clerks in the Secretariat has been materially improved. The allotment under "Board of Revenue" and "Commissioners" has gone up, mainly for that reason also, namely, the improvement in the pay and prospects of the ministerial staff. There has been no increase in the higher personnel of the Board of Revenue and Commissioners, nor has there been any alteration in their pay. Under "Commissioners" there is a small item of Rs. 25,000 for replacing a boiler in one of the steam-launches, and I trust the Council will not think that in this year of economy we should cut this out, as I am informed that the boiler is absolutely unsafe, and that, if we do not replace it, one of our Commissioners will proceed to heaven more rapidly than he otherwise would. The Local Fund Audit establishment is also responsible for an increased allotment, which is mainly due to the improvement in the pay of the auditors.

These, Sir, are the main features of the general grant.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur moved "that the demand for the salary of the Director of Information be refused."

My task with regard to this resolution is very simple. We sometimes hear of the existence of an officer who is called, I believe, Director of Information. I, however, looked through all the lines of the Budget, but could gather no information regarding this officer. I do not know whether this gentleman is employed on some humanitarian or philanthropic work for the enlightenment of the people of Bengal about the meteorological policy of Government or the motive of police officials in taking up a particular line of investigation. If so, and, if the officer does not draw any pay from the public funds, I have not the slightest objection to all the effusions that come out from his pen from time to time to the bewilderment of the public. But, if he is a paid servant of Government, his post and the rate of pay drawn by him ought to appear somewhere in the Budget. If he is an "officer on special duty" which appears in several places in the Budget under head "22 F—Civil Secretariat," this should have been stated

The incumbent of the appointment, if I am correctly informed, is an ex-army officer without any previous experience of Bengal or the civil administration of India. During the major portion of the war Mr. J. N. Roy occupied the position of Press Censor and performed his duties to the great satisfaction of the public and, I trust, of the Government too. I therefore find no justification for importing a stranger for such an appointment, no doubt at a very high rate of pay. In fact I can find no justification for the appointment of a Director of Information, when we have got additional Deputy Secretaries and Under-Secretaries. It can by no means be argued that all these officers are overworked and cannot get time to draft press *communiqués* on subjects relating to their departments. Then, again, it cannot be supposed that any single officer can possess such encyclopædic knowledge that he can prepare himself all the *communiqués* on the various subjects, which are issued under his name, without the help of the departments concerned. If this is the case, why, I ask, is this duplication of work? The duties of the appointment, so far as the public are aware, are extremely light, and any expenditure on account of the pay of such an officer is absolutely unnecessary and a sheer waste of public money. I am not aware that Madras, the Punjab and other provinces and presidencies have got their Directors of Information, and I am told they do this particular business in a popular way. If, therefore, any provision has been made in the Budget for the pay of such an appointment, I move that the amount be omitted.

The PRESIDENT: The next item on the paper is identical to one that has already been moved The member need not, therefore, move his amendment, but he may take part in the debate.

Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur: In addition to what has already been said by Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur I would like to add a few words. The post of the Director of Information is a new creation and it reminds one of Jonah's gourd, " up in one night and due to sudden sun." Before the war, the Government of Bengal had no officer of this kind and never felt the want of one. When the war broke out and the Government in England constituted a Ministry of Information, the Government of Bengal established a Publicity Board, and a special officer was appointed as Censor to advise the press of the province. With the end of the war, the post was abolished and the Publicity Board, consisting of Honorary Members was dissolved. But after this how the Government came to feel the want of an officer to be in charge of a special department, and when the office was created, is a mystery. It was only when on the 20th July last a gentleman signing as " Director of Information," served what has sarcastically been called a *Purwana* on the editor of the *Basumati*, a Calcutta daily, requiring him to furnish by return some information, that the public became aware of its existence. Sir, every department of the Government has been in the habit of issuing *communiqués*, whenever necessary, and this practice is still in vogue. True, now and then, we find the Director issuing *communiqués*, which should be issued from some or other of the Departments of the Government. But this cannot justify us in supporting the additional expenditure incurred in the establishment of a new officer who seems to be a surplusage. As I fail to understand why the cost of administration should be further increased by the creation of a sinecure appointment, I beg to move that the demand for the salary of the Director of Information be refused.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: Probably members of this House will remember that in my Budget speech I told them that a personage of the name of Director of Information existed, but I can nowhere find his salary either in the Civil Estimates or in the Budget. I asked the Hon'ble Finance Member; he looked for it; he could not find it; then he had recourse to Mr. Marr, who could not also find it. Then on the next day it was found that on page 49 of the Civil Estimates his pay is put down, "Officer on Special Duty:" voted Rs. 600, non-voted Rs. 24,000. Then Mr. Marr told me that the pay was put down by mistake as " non-voted;" so it was with very great difficulty that we could find out the salary of this Director of Information. Everybody knows that during the viceroyalty of Lord Lytton a similar appointment was made when the Vernacular Press Act was passed; that was probably in the year 1879 or 1880, and Mr. Lethbridge, who was then a professor of the Presidency College, was taken to Simla to fill up that appointment. After a year or so that appointment was abolished, because it was not any longer useful. Then during the war time, Mr. J. N. Roy was appointed as Press Censor; of course it was absolutely necessary at that time to inform the public of what happened and what was going on. But at the present time we see absolutely no necessity for such an appointment, as we can get all the

information we require from the Secretaries or Heads of Departments. They used to issue *communiqués* to the press on matters which it was necessary that the public should know. They used to do that before, but now we have got this officer, the Director of Information, to supply information to the public on a pay of Rs. 2,000 a month, and I think he has got an office costing Rs. 600. I do not know whether he has got an office or not, but it appears that there is another item of Rs. 600 just over his head. We have now got a Council, where every interest is represented, and we can get answers to every question from the Council. I really do not see why there should be a Director of Information, to give publicity to news in the newspapers. If the public want to know anything, they can always go to their accredited representatives and ask the Heads of Departments if this is a true fact. I really do not understand why this appointment should be allowed to remain. With these few words I beg to support the motion.

Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: I have not much to say in support of the resolution, but it strikes me that my friend, Babu Surendra Nath Ray, was at great pains to get information, about the Director of Information, but, Sir, we do not want much information now. We know more than we require, and as my friend, Babu Surendra Nath Ray, has just now said, that in this extended Council, which is a large body, the people are in touch with the Legislative Assembly and the Assembly are in touch with all the Departments of Government. Though it is now a superfluity, it was a war time necessity. I think there is no reason for continuing the post that has been created for a temporary purpose, and to burden the taxpayers with the cost of maintaining that office.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I beg to support the amendment of Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur. We have got a very active press in this country, both Indian and Anglo-Indian, and they are good purveyors of news. This appointment of the Director of Information in a peaceful country, where not much information outside what we can get from the newspaper is required, is absolutely unnecessary. We have got a very poor Budget, and it will not at all be right to burden us with the salaries of this officer and of his establishment.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I am not sorry that this question has been raised in connection with the Budget, as it gives me an opportunity of explaining certain aspects of it which do not at present seem to be clearly understood, and also of drawing the attention of the Council to certain matters in connection with the general subject which are well deserving of notice.

Before proceeding to discuss the merits of the question, I would briefly refer to the complaint which has been made in some quarters as to the difficulty of finding this particular item in the Budget. The item is shown at page 51 of the Civil Estimates as "Officer on Special

Duty—Rs. 24,600," and the difficulty has consisted, no doubt, in crossing the floor of this House to ask either Mr. Marr or myself where that item was to be found. It would no doubt have been better to have specifically mentioned the item, but Mr. Kerr has already referred to the general difficulties that were experienced in preparing the Budget owing to the novelty of the form in which it was drawn up this year, and has admitted the existence of small oversights which we hope to remedy or avoid in future years.

Apart from that, this debate raises the general and very interesting question of publicity, and to any reader of the papers in recent days it will have been apparent that this subject of publicity is occupying the minds, not only of this Council, but of other Councils in different parts of India also. There have been various debates on this question within the last few days, and I cannot better define the purpose in view than by referring to the answer which was given in the Imperial Council on the 14th September last, which puts the position clearly and concisely. It was then said:—

The main object of appointing publicity officers is to provide a regular medium of communication between Government and the Public. The work of the publicity officer consists in making available to the public in a suitable form information likely to be of general interest and in supplying facts on public questions, the activities of Government and the reasons for their policy. The main channel of communication with the public is through the press, by lectures, and by leaflets.

That answer also gave figures of expenditure which other provinces were incurring in comparison with our own, which are not without interest. Thus we find that Madras thought the matter of sufficient importance to spend Rs. 66,000; Bombay Rs. 42,000; I have not got the exact figures for the United Provinces, but I know them to be high; the Punjab Rs. 1,74,000, of which Rs. 50,000 is covered by the sale of a newspaper; Burma Rs. 22,000, rising to Rs. 40,000 if it published a newspaper, about which there has been some discussion. In comparison with these sums there are the humble allotments of Bihar and Orissa and ourselves, ours being Rs. 25,000 and Bihar and Orissa Rs. 10,000. These other provinces thus thought the matter worthy of fairly heavy expenditure, and the Council will no doubt have noticed that a similar resolution to this was recently rejected in the Imperial Council and also in the Council of Bihar and Orissa. In the Punjab it was, on the other hand, passed.

Now, Sir, what is the reason that this question of publicity has attracted so much attention in recent times? In the old days it was a frequent subject of complaint against Government that their ways were ways of darkness, and that a rather unsympathetic bureaucracy, working in secrecy, never tried to explain its actions or to volunteer any information which it was not absolutely forced to give, with the result that it was generally known to the public, at best, as a spasmodic and somewhat irregularly intervening agency, whose actions

were almost unintelligible, or at any rate extraordinarily difficult to follow. That was a very ancient form of criticism that was made against Government in this country, and, although I am not prepared to admit that it was true to the full, yet there was something in it. We, or our predecessors rather, were apt to prefer to blush unseen, forgetting that it might be desirable to explain to the outside public that we were blushing for our good qualities, not for our defects. The public were apt to give the less favourable interpretation to our attitude. Well, Sir, that was true even before the days of the war. The war brought this whole subject very much to the fore. It became apparent during the war, and in the light of the preceding events which the war emphasised, that publicity was a most potent agent in modern life; that if great things were to be done and popular sympathy was to be enlisted in carrying out any great movement, it was desirable that the public should know what the facts were. It also emphasised the sinister side of the question, namely, that by evil propaganda, persistently applied, in unremitting stream, enormous mischief can be done, and that men's minds can be misled to the extent of leading them to mad actions, after which the risk of impressing upon them the true facts becomes most difficult, if not, for the time being at any rate, impossible. This was one of the striking lessons of the war, and it naturally drew attention to the whole question.

Publicity in this country is not an easy thing to ensure, and a great deal of the history of recent times in this connection has been one of experiment. All provinces have known what they wanted to attain, but they have found it very difficult to attain it, and their experiments have taken various forms. Thus I remember that in the early days of the war, 1913-14 or thereabouts, the Bombay Government sought to do something in this direction by putting on a special officer to, so to speak, "pot" their resolutions and reports. Resolutions often go out from the Secretariat as somewhat stodgy and lengthy documents, and the idea was that the special officer would boil them down and brighten them up. That experiment was discontinued after some time as not altogether successful. Another method of publicity is one to which we are very well accustomed, that is, the issue of *communiqués*, to which reference has been made to-day. It has been argued that, when there are Secretaries, why should the staff be increased by a special officer? The publication of *communiqués* is rather an illustration of the old saying, that what is everybody's business is nobody's business. If it is merely left as a general injunction to the Secretariat to look out for misrepresentations and misunderstandings and to correct them by *communiqués*, we know by experience that many items of incorrect information go unnoticed, while generally in the issue of the explanation or correction there is a regrettable delay, and everybody connected with the journalistic world and the consumption of news by the public

is fully aware of the importance of freshness in anything that has to do with either a statement or its contradiction. Therefore it greatly facilitates the issue of *communiqués*, if there is a special officer to give the matter his attention

Another way of ensuring publicity and the correct representation of facts was, as many of us must be aware, to encourage by subsidy the circulation of papers of a sounder type. That was fairly speedily discontinued, and I think the discontinuance met with the approval of many who are usually our critics. Another form of experiment is that which has been tried in the Punjab, the United Provinces and some other provinces, where we find that steps are being taken to issue Government newspapers. That is a form of publicity which, to my mind, is surrounded with difficulties. It is extraordinarily expensive, and it is not applicable to a province like Bengal, which already has in it a strong and active press.

Another method of publicity is the distribution of literature. That offers great possibilities, and it is one to which we resort. We are endeavouring to give a wide circulation to any pronouncement or literature of general interest; but in order that action may be effective and prompt a special supervising officer is essential.

Another old device in this province was to open a press room in the Secretariat, but for many years those who resorted to the press room were few or none. Since the time of His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay, to whom, with his experience of political life at home, this defect in our methods here has always been very apparent, we tried the experiment of deputing to the press room an officer who would be available to all and sundry, who could be consulted and give advice on any matters which were troubling the minds of the people. Unfortunately nobody came to consult him. I think he had only three visitors in about three months, so we eventually, about 9 months ago, arrived at our present method, under which we engaged a very experienced journalist—a journalist with experience not only of England but of many foreign and Eastern countries—and placed him in the Secretariat, with the idea that he would be available to the public and to the press to give information about anything on which facts might be desired; that he would superintend the issue of *communiqués* on subjects that were attracting the attention of the press, and the circulation of literature to our officers in the muffassal; and that, generally, he would keep in touch with all to whom his services might be useful. It is the pay of that officer and of a small establishment which appears in the Budget. As a matter of fact, our engagement with Major Story was made only for one year, and he is leaving us at the end of that period—in the middle of June, up to when we are bound to him. The Council may perhaps say: "Why not wind up the experiment after the middle of June?", but I trust that I have made it clear that there is a very real need of expenditure of this kind, and even when

Major Story leaves us in June, it is the wish of the Governor in Council, in consultation with the Ministers, to whom this subject is of as much, if not more, interest than to us, to see how the money that appears under that head can best be spent in meeting this need. It is a very real need—a need for failing to meet which we have been criticised in the past, and a need which to the best of our ability we are anxious to meet in the future. We heard quite recently from Colonel Pugh an indictment against us to the effect that we are not paying sufficient attention to publicity, and the only item in the Budget, apart from this, which will to some extent meet his point, is one which figures in the Sanitation Budget and is intended for expenditure on lectures, exhibitions and the like connected with public health. The item, to which I am now referring, is of a more general character, and I urge on the Council that it would be wise to allow it to stand, in the expectation that by that expenditure both the members of this Council and the public at large will derive considerable benefit, and the actions of Government will be better understood than is perhaps always the case at present.

A division was then taken, with the following result:—

AYES.

Afzal, Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir.
Ali, Maulvi Syed Muksood.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Basu, Rai Bahadur Nainaksha.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Dess, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Farequi, Mr. K. C. M.
Chatak, Rai Sahib Nilmani.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hami-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray, Babu Bhabendra Chandra.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manifoli Singh.
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath.
Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.

NOES.

Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Birla, Babu Chaneshyamdas.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr C. H.
Campbell, Mr. J.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cochran, Mr. A.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
Donald, Mr. J.
Chose, Mr. D. C.
Cordon, Mr. A. D.
Cupta, Mr. N. B.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Marr, Mr. A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Morgan, Mr. C.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Rhodes, Mr. C. W.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Watson-Smyth, Mr. R. M.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 71 and the Noes 36, the motion was carried.

Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur: May I submit a few words in connection with motions Nos. 32 and 35? My submission is that motions 32, 35, 45, 46, 52, 53, 62, 63, 81, 82, 83, 122 123 dealing with the hill journey and Dacca allowances under different heads of the Budget, relate to the same subject, and they should therefore be taken together.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: They are in respect of different departments.

The PRESIDENT: Under rule 33, motions must be discussed in the order of the heads of the Budget to which they refer.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: There is one thing I ought to mention; it would be much better if Mr. Kerr were to separate the hill allowance and Dacca allowance and hill journey charges, because there may be——

The PRESIDENT: You cannot separate them now; you have already given notice of them in one motion.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY moved "that the demand for hill and Dacca allowances and hill journey charges in account 22 F. be refused."

This item will be found on page 50 of the Civil Estimates, Finance and Commerce Department. Hill journey charges in the Budget Estimate for 1921-22, Rs. 6,000 and hill and Dacca allowances, Rs. 36,000, travelling allowance Rs. 25,000.

As regards motion No. 35—22 G., you will find in page 52 of the Civil Estimates, that is the Board of Revenue hill and Dacca allowances, Rs. 2,500, hill journey charges Rs. 1,200; that is all.

The PRESIDENT: I think you had better move No. 33 first, and then move No. 35; they will be put separately to the vote.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: With reference to items 33—22 F., as I have said, this relates to the Civil Secretariat, Finance and Commerce Department. You have provided for Rs. 36,000 in the Budget Estimates for 1921-22, as the amount to be spent for hill and Dacca allowances, and Rs. 6,000 as hill journey charges. We thought that after the resolution of my friend, Babu Surendra Nath Mullick, had been passed by this Council there would be no more exodus to the hills, and that this item of expenditure would find no place in the Budget. But though the resolution was passed by this House, still we find that nearly all the departments of Government are going to the hills! Well, I do not want to advance any new argument, because all the arguments that we had to advance were advanced on the last occasion. We have always said that we have no objection to His Excellency the Governor or the Members of the Executive Council, going to the hills at times, but we certainly have strong objection to His Excellency the Governor and all the Members of the Executive Council, with their offices, going to the hills and spending a good portion of the year in what has now become the summer capital of Bengal. This dislocates business; the Government does not remain in touch with public opinion, and no useful purpose is served so far as the public is concerned by this exodus to the hills.

Then, as regards going to Dacca, I really do not understand why the Members of the Executive Council, Ministers and all the offices of the Bengal Secretariat should go there, and spend two months in the year—the months of July and August—in Dacca. If respectable gentlemen of Dacca want to have an interview with the Members of the Executive Council or with the Ministers, if they want to interchange their views, well, the Members or Ministers can go there for a week or two; but I really cannot understand why they should spend a portion of the year, say two months or even a month, at Dacca. What useful purpose will be served?.

My friend, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri may well say why should not these high officials spend some time at Rajshahi? And the people of Murshidabad might well say that Murshidabad was the ancient capital of Bengal, why should not the Governor and the Members of the Executive Council and the Ministers and the officers of Government spend a portion of the year at Murshidabad? My Dacca friends might well say there is a great difference, Dacca was only the other day the capital of Eastern Bengal, and they want that all the paraphernalia of office should be there. Now that the partition has been unsettled, to use a well known Bengali phrase, it is useless to tie the hair which you have already cut.

Well, I don't think my Dacca friends will take any offence at my remark, because going to Dacca means so much additional expenditure without any additional benefit to the people of the place.

Then, as regards the Civil Secretariat. As regards 22 G, I find that the Member of the Board of Revenue with his department has been provided with Dacca and hill allowances——

The PRESIDENT: You are moving now only No. 33, namely 22 F.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: Then I have finished.

The PRESIDENT: If you want to move both together, I have no objection. I thought it would be better if you moved one after the other.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I have finished No. 33.

The PRESIDENT: I now ask you to move No. 35. There will be one debate on both.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: This is with reference to the hill and Dacca allowances of the Board of Revenue, and the hill journey charges, Rs. 1,200, hill and Dacca allowances Rs. 2,500. I remember—I speak of what happened about 30 years ago—the Member of the Board of Revenue never pased more than a fortnight at Darjeeling, but now, like His Excellency the Governor and the Members of the Executive Council, the offices of the other Secretaries, the office of the Member of the Board of Revenue, also is removed there. The Member of the Board of Revenue can go to Kalimpong, Lebong, and other places, where probably he has sufficient settlement work to supervise, and where I think a new town is being built, but I really cannot understand——

This is all I have to say. [A member was seen to have a whispered conversation with the speaker.] I may tell you, Sir, that I have been asked by my friends to withdraw this motion, as there is a strong feeling against it.

The PRESIDENT: Babu Surendra Nath Ray wants leave to withdraw his motion.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I object to this motion being withdrawn. I want to move it myself.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May I know whether it is possible to separate the two items of Dacca and hill allowances?

The PRESIDENT: They have been moved together; I cannot separate them now.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Can it not be done in this way?

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: May I have your permission to move only in respect of hill allowances?

The PRESIDENT: I have already ruled that you cannot separate the two.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: If that is so, I bow to your ruling, as I have no other alternative.

The PRESIDENT (to Babu Surendra Nath Mullick): Do you object to the motion being withdrawn? You can speak on that, and then I will put it to the vote.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: Then I move that the demand for hill allowances in account 22 G. be refused; I also beg to move——

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I rise to a point of order Babu Surendra Nath Mullick's name is not on the list as having given notice of any such motion.

The PRESIDENT (to Babu Surendra Nath Mullick): I told you that you could speak in support of your objection and then I will put the motion to the House, and if leave be given it will be allowed to be withdrawn; otherwise not.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I beg to oppose the proposition of my friend, Babu Surendra Nath Ray, to withdraw these two resolutions which he has formally proposed, and my grounds are these: I do not find any reason why, he should at the last moment say that there is a strong feeling, and should therefore, withdraw the motions. To my mind there is a strong feeling, which is the other way about, and that is the reason why I oppose the withdrawal, and, in doing so, I wish just to make a few observations, and the first of them is this: that it is not a matter of little surprise to me—indeed I am perfectly surprised at the barefacedness of the demand. In spite of the resolution which was passed the other day on my motion here against the exodus, which was accepted by the Council, and before the very ink of the resolution is dry, there are these demands being made! This is co-operation and responsible government indeed! The time has now come when the Government must realise that we are determined to set our face against such an irresponsible waste of money as this. No doubt, it is a very nice thing to enjoy a picnic at other people's expense, but this we are not going to permit, if we can help it.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I wish to say a few words with reference to the application made by Babu Surendra Nath Ray for withdrawal of his motions. We had no idea that Babu Surendra Nath Ray would withdraw his motion at the last moment. I understand that there is a feeling amongst the Eastern Bengal members that they do not like that the item, so far as Dacca is concerned, should be cut out. Can it not be made in this way? If this resolution is carried, surely any member hailing from Eastern Bengal may at a subsequent meeting move that the travelling charges so far as Dacca is concerned

be restored, or that a certain grant be made for the travelling charges of the officers who may be required to visit Dacca or any other place in the interest of Government. I submit that that can easily be done; and if the members are of opinion that the resolution which they passed on the last occasion that the expenditure in connection with the exodus should not be incurred, be given effect to by voting against the withdrawal of the motions of Babu Surendra Nath Ray, they may move at a subsequent meeting that a certain sum of money be granted for the journey to Dacca.

The PRESIDENT: The position is that the mover, Babu Surendra Nath Ray, wants leave to withdraw his motion. There appears to be some objection to such a course. I have already allowed two members to speak, and in such cases, except with the leave of the President, there can be no discussion. I will now put the motion to the vote.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I only wish to say a word by way of personal explanation, because I was one of the members who advised Babu Surendra Nath Ray to withdraw his motions. I will not take up more than a couple of minutes. A sort of insinuation has been made by Babu Surendra Nath Mullick in opposing this application for leave to withdraw these motions. Just about half an hour before we met in this Council we had an informal discussion as to what resolutions we ought to support and what resolutions we ought to withdraw. It is true that this resolution was one of them.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I rise to a point of order. Is Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq entitled to refer to a matter which happened outside this Council chamber? Is that a personal explanation?

The PRESIDENT: I have given him permission to offer an explanation.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I hope I shall not be interrupted any further. At that time, most of the members from Eastern Bengal had not come, and, although it was decided by a majority that these resolutions should be supported, it now seems that there is a strong feeling amongst us, the members from Eastern Bengal, that the provision for Dacca allowances should not be curtailed. It is not a mere sentiment, and I may tell my friends from Western Bengal that the people of Eastern Bengal demand that the Governor and high officials and the other Heads of Departments should spend some time of the year at any rate at Dacca That is a thing which we have been demanding for some time, and at this moment we cannot allow any curtailment of the charges for the Dacca allowance, as it is a necessary essential, and it is not a sort of picnic.

The PRESIDENT: Now that Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq has explained his position, I will put the question to the House.

The question is whether leave be given to Babu Surendra Nath Ray to withdraw his motions Nos. 33 and 35.

The question was put and agreed to.

Motions Nos. 33 and 35 were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA moved "that the grant for the travelling allowance and the establishment of the Lady Adviser to the Court of Wards be refused."

Originally my proposition was aimed at the absolute abolition of the post of the Lady Adviser to the Court of Wards, including her establishment and travelling allowance charges. It now appears that the neighbouring Government of Bihar has kindly taken her over and we have been saved the situation of making payments of her salary. But the other thing remains, and it amounts to Rs. 23,500: that is the amount in question now.

I urge this motion for the acceptance of this Hon'ble Council on three principles, namely, necessity, utility and retrenchment.

The first point is—Is there any necessity for entertaining a Lady Adviser to the Court of Wards, who would now and then be required to pay some occasional visits to certain estates, entertain an establishment and just be paid to the extent of about Rs. 23,500? What we understand by the administration by the Court of Wards is in its practical aspect administration of the estates of minors and disqualified and incapable proprietors, male or female, under the Court of Wards Act. The very first premise is that they are incapable, and therefore Government, in the shape of the Court of Wards, administers their estates; and we know, from the Board of Revenue downwards, the Commissioners, the Collectors, the managers appointed under the Court of Wards Act, in fact all Government officials of ripe training and experience and trusted Government servants have got to manage the properties under the Court of Wards. They are also assisted, when difficulties arise, by the very highly efficient Law officials of Government, viz., the Advocate-General down to the Government Pleader of the district. As a matter of fact they are always there to advise them. Where then is the room just for a Lady Adviser to the Court of Wards? So far as I have been able to gather, some sort of an apology for entertaining her and her department was tried to be based upon the requirements of some of our female wards because of the system of *purdah*. So far as I know, this necessity has only been created for the purpose of maintaining and entertaining that department. I can speak with some amount of experience, so far as Hindu wards are concerned, that such a Lady Adviser is not at all necessary—not only redundant but sometimes perhaps absolutely undesirable, as has already

been explained: I cannot go further. So far as Muhammadans are concerned, who are supposed to be very keen in maintaining their *purdah* system, I have got the assurance from some of the Muhammadan leaders, that as a matter of fact there is absolutely no necessity for this sort of a Lady Adviser, at least the creation of a sinecure post for her. I have never heard of the Lady Adviser paying visits to the female Muhammadan wards in my part of the country—so far as the whole of Chittagong and Mymensingh districts is concerned. Well, in a sense, it appears it is admitted that there is no further necessity of entertaining this officer, as there is no provision in the Budget itself to engage somebody else in her place now that she has gone over to the Bihar Government. Therefore, considering all circumstances there is no necessity for a Lady Adviser. So long she is not allowed to acquire practical experience of law courts, as you all know well, her book knowledge or theory is absolutely futile, and perhaps one would like to be at a safe distance from her.

Now, coming to another aspect; a bit of advice about matrimony, about adoption by Hindu widows, about personal health, comforts, etc., may be obtained from the Lady Adviser. Does the Court of Wards, which represents Government, really feel that there is any necessity of having a special post created and entertained for such purposes? Well, if there is any special necessity or a special occasion, are not the local authorities, the Collector, the Commissioner, perfectly equal to the task of finding out some special means just to tide over the difficulty that arises? I do not know what utility can there be in such an officer. I think that I have been able to convince the Council that there is no further necessity of the Lady Adviser and of paying for her establishment.

Then, comes the question of retrenchment. I am not for cutting down everything. I am not for cutting down every item. What I mean is that it will be simply foolish on the part of any one to spend a pice where he can spare it. And I have already shown to you that as a matter of fact there is neither any necessity for, nor any utility of, a Lady Adviser. In my opinion, her services are no longer required, and I hope and trust that this Council will accept my amendment.

Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: I think it incumbent on me to place before the Council some facts about the post of the Lady Adviser to the Board of Revenue. Now, it has to be remembered that the *purdah* system in this country is still prevalent. We do not object to lady doctors. We think that lady doctors are necessary. In the case of the Lady Adviser in legal matters, there is no reason why we should object to the appointment. It is in matters of law that it is necessary that a person should have free and frank consultation with his legal advisers, and it sometimes not possible for ladies, who require legal advice, to have that free and frank consultation with male legal advisers.

There is another fact, which my friend perhaps does not know, that the Lady Adviser does not confine her activities to Court of Wards' cases and I have known of cases, in which ladies were concerned and her services were available without the payment of any fees, because she is paid by Government. I have had occasion to avail of her services in important transactions, and I have always found her services to be of very great value. I submit, therefore, that the Council will not decide this matter in a hurry, but will carefully consider the matter, so that the ladies who have had an opportunity of consulting a trained legal adviser, to whom they can open out their minds, should not be debarred from that advantage.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I am sorry that Babu Annada Charan Dutta should have moved this motion at this stage, for the simple reason that the general question as to whether the post of Lady Adviser to the Courts of Wards should be retained or not would have come up better in the form of a resolution, specially as the mover knows that owing to the Lady Adviser's salary being non-voted, we arrive at a very small figure which will have to be voted. As long as the post is retained, it will be impossible for the Lady Adviser to carry on her work unless she were given the necessary establishment. And what is more, let us look at the total Budget figure itself: the figure is Rs. 23,500; and if we deduct Rs. 14,400 from it, we find that the Lady Adviser's salary amounts to Rs. 9,100. If we looked at the Budget again we would find that the Bihar share of Rs. 23,500 is Rs. 13,500 and, therefore, Bengal's share is Rs. 10,000. Therefore, on a fraction of the amount which is votable, Bengal's share comes to Rs. 3,870. The general question of the retention of the Lady Adviser's post will be taken up by Government next year when Miss Sorabji is due to retire. For these reasons, I think it would be advisable for the mover of the motion to withdraw it and to allow Rs. 3,870 to stand in the Budget. There will be ample opportunities for the members of this Council to discuss this question hereafter.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: From what has fallen from the Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur, I am led to enquire, before I take the steps suggested by him, whether it is not possible to make her retire this year on the pension she may get next year.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: That cannot be done, as the Government of Bihar is also concerned.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I beg leave to withdraw my motion, but I shall bring it up later on.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: Having regard to the communication which was made on behalf of His Excellency the Governor intimating that His Excellency is desirous of consulting eminent counsel in England on the question of the Ministers' salary, I beg leave to withdraw this motion.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn: "That the demand for grant for '22—General Administration' be reduced by Rs. 54,000."

The PRESIDENT: I have now to put the following motion to vote, viz., that the grant for expenditure under head "22—General Administration" as amended in Council be passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim) moved "that a sum of Rs. 1,15,40,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '24—Administration of Justice' for the year 1921."

The Council will see from the details, which are given in the estimates, that under this head are included demands for the High Court, the Law officers, the offices of the Administrator-General and the Official Trustee, the Presidency Magistrates' Courts, the Coroner's Court, the Civil and Sessions Courts, the Criminal Courts, the Court of Small Causes, and the Pleadership Examination charges. As regards refunds, I need not explain what is the meaning of it, as that has been explained several times before.

There has been a considerable increase of expenditure under this head, which is mainly accounted for, as will appear from the estimates, by the fact that the pay of the Provincial Service and of the Imperial Service has been revised. There has also been an increase in the cadre of Munsifs and Sub-Judges. These are really the main heads of increase. There are also some small increases, for instance, there is that much disputed item, which is classed under paper-book, but which is inaccurately classed as such, because it represents not merely the expenses of the establishment of the Paper-book Department, but it represents the expenses of the reorganisation of the offices of the High Court mainly on the Appellate Side. During the general discussion of the Budget, I had to say something about this item, and I find from the agenda paper that quite a number of members of this Council want to move for reduction of this grant.

As regards that matter, I may state generally at this stage that the establishment for preparation of paper-books was sanctioned at the instance of the High Court by the Government of India, and we acted

under the orders of the Government of India in finding the money fc this expenditure; and we have therefore made a provision for it in th Budget. I may point out—and doubtless most of you have noticed i already—that while Rs. 1,30,000 is put down under the expenditur head, there is a corresponding item on the revenue side, so that so far a the provincial revenues are concerned, no sort of burden is imposed o these revenues. Nor need I point out that the Government does no intend to make any income out of this establishment. All that w require is that the cost of the establishment should be paid by th litigant public, who require paper-books for the use of their appeals It will be evident that the High Court does not make any income by thi establishment. I do not want to anticipate the nature of the objections that will be urged against this item of expenditure, but, so far as th economic side of it is concerned, there is no additional charge on th revenues of this province. So that cannot be the objection to thi item.

I may also point out that there has been a considerable confusion, i I were to judge from what I see in the papers, between the establishmen of the Paper-Book Department and certain rules which, I understand have been framed by the High Court for the purpose of conducting thei business on the Appellate Side. This Government is in no way concerne with these rules. We know nothing about them, and this Council i not now called upon to consider the advisability or the propriety of thes rules. I shall therefore ask the Council, when this question is discusse to separate the question of the necessity or propriety of this establish ment from the question of the propriety of certain rules framed by th High Court.

Another thing I ought to point out to the Council is that this iten of Rs. 1,30,000 is merely an approximate figure, as it is not yet know exactly what the printing of paper-books is going to cost. It was als under the consideration of the High Court—whether there should be a similar establishment for the Original Side. So far as the Appellat Side is concerned, the estimated cost of the Paper-book Department pro per—and it is only a provisional figure as the details are still under con sideration—is about Rs. 78,000 in round figures. I explained on a pre vious occasion that the learned Judges of the High Court know best how these paper-books ought to be prepared. What they found was that th paper-books latterly were not properly prepared; and I need hardly poin out to the Council that it is very essential that the record on which th Court has to decide cases should be accurate and legible. If the recor is defective in these respects, there is likely to be miscarriage of justice The learned Judges also found that there was considerable delay in th preparation of the paper-books. As some members of this Council an aware, there was very severe comment made by the Privy Council in a number of cases on the delays in the prosecution of appeals; and in th opinion of the High Court, who again, I say, is in the best position t

ıdge of these matters, the delay was at least partly due to the fact that ıe paper-books in the first appeals were prepared in the office of junior akils.

There was another matter of which the High Court complains very rongly, and that is that a considerable amount of unnecessary printed natter is included in the paper-book. That, of course, swells the cost f the appeal to the litigant, and the appellant or the respondent, as the ase may be, has to bear this unnecessary cost. The High Court thought nat some portion of this evil was due to the fact that the junior vakils ave charge of the preparation of the paper-books and there might be a endency, in some cases at least, to print unnecessary papers—at any ate there would not be a keen desire not to print unnecessary papers. As egards the cost of the new scheme, naturally there will be a certain ıcrease of cost over the old rates which were fixed in 1881. Since then, rices of everything, materials and labour, have considerably gone up, nd it is really a matter of surprise how the vakils managed to prepare ıy paper-books at all during recent years. Of course the result in many ases was that the work was very unsatisfactorily done. The High ourt took the precaution of consulting many printing establishments— think about eight printing houses here. Seven of them under the onditions of labour and fluctuation of prices now prevailing refused together to have anything to do with the printing of these papers. nly one firm gave quotations, and those were much in excess of the vised rates as laid down by the High Court. I may say in this connec- on that the vakils themselves found it very difficult to go on printing the old rates, and shortly before the new rates were promulgated, they ıd applied for a considerable increase in the rates which they were lowed. I do not think I need say anything more at this stage. I shall ear what the objections are to this charge, and then I will give my :planation.

As regards the increase in the Subordinate Judicial cadre, I might oint out that no less than 68 Munsifs have been officiating for several ears. That could not be a desirable state of things. These gentlemen ould go to one district and officiate for a few months, come back and go mewhere else. It became necessary, therefore, to increase the cadre. ıe proposal was that as many as 40 Munsifs and five Sub-Judges should added to the cadre, but we did not find it possible owing to want of nds this year to add more than 20 Munsifs and three Sub-Judges.

Objection has also been taken to the appointment of the Additional egal Remembrancer. As regards that, all I wish to state at this stage that in an answer to a question put by a member in this House, I inted out that the Government is considering the question, whether the end of the present term, the office would still be required or not. ıt I may tell you generally that I have looked into the matter with nsiderable care, and I do think that, if there be a sufficient number of portant and difficult criminal prosecutions in this province, it is

extremely desirable from every point of view that there should be a special Law Officer to deal with those cases. I must ask the House not to confuse this office with that of the Legal Remembrancer. Their functions are wholly different. What the Additional Legal Remembrancer does is what in England is done by the Director of Public Prosecutions. He may otherwise be called Criminal Solicitor to the Government.

The Police are not able to deal satisfactorily without proper advice and supervision with important cases of commercial fraud or other prosecutions of that nature, and it is as much in the interest of economy as of efficiency that there should be a Law Officer of this kind to supervise and advise and direct the action of the police in these cases.

There is also another item, and that arises out of the amalgamation of the offices of the Administrator-General and the Official Trustee. The word "amalgamation" is not perhaps very happy in this connection. It was found necessary not only to amalgamate but to reorganise these two offices, and I may tell you generally that since the reorganization, the offices have improved considerably in efficiency. There is a surplus now, where there used to be a heavy deficit before. I would also like the House to remember that no charge under this head falls on the general revenues of the province, but it is borne by the estates under management. I now move that the demand be granted.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ moved "that the demand for Rs. 1,30,000 for provision for preparation of paper-books in the High Court be refused."

It is not as a selfish defender of vested interests that I rise to make this motion. I propose to rest my case on much larger grounds and I am willing to concede that if I cannot make my case stand on its own merits I will admit at once that my case stands self-condemned, and I will not even ask this House to go into a division over this matter. I have consulted many of my Indian non-official colleagues in this House and I have been able to find out that, so far as the majority is concerned, they are practically of my opinion in this matter. I say this, because at the present moment I wish to confine my remarks to the point which I consider to be of some importance, not merely to the Indian members of this House, but to the European members also. I feel, therefore, that resting my case on its own merits and on considerations of justice, I hope to win not simply on the votes of Indian non-official members only, but I hope to be able to get the support of my European colleagues also. It will not be the first time that I have got it. On one occasion at Dacca—although there was an impression that European members always voted on the side of Government—I carried a resolution in Council against Government. I hope to be able to get that support this evening also.

So far as the High Court is concerned we all know that there are two divisions of the work that is performed there, namely, the Original Side

and the Appellate Side. It is with the Appellate Side that we are concerned to-day, not with the criminal branch of that side, but with the civil branch of the Appellate work in the High Court. The High Court in its Appellate Side disposes of appeals and, I think, it is generally known that there are two kinds of appeals which come up to the High Court. There are appeals from appellate decrees which are known as second appeals or special appeals and there are appeals from original decrees and original orders which are known as original appeals or first appeals. Now, the High Court Judges always insist that vernacular papers should be translated into English. It is a matter of complaint to us, but it is irrelevant to the present point at issue that even the High Court Judges do not take the trouble of becoming acquainted with the language of the country. However, vernacular papers have got to be translated, and not only translated, but the Judges insist that, except in very few cases, these papers must also be printed, as if manuscript papers would offend the judicious majesty of the Judges of the High Court. In the case of the paper-books for second appeals, it is the High Court and the offices of the High Court, which are charged with the duty of printing them. It is only in the case of the paper-books for the hearing of the original or first appeals that the High Court allows the vakils of the High Court to prepare the paper-books in their own offices and to make their own terms with the clients. This system was introduced by the late Sir Ramesh Mitter in the year 1883, and I claim that it has worked most satisfactorily during the last 40 years. At any rate I am confident that nothing new has happened within these years. I am confident that no case has at all been made out by the advocates of change to convince the members of this House that a practice which has behind it the sanction of 40 years should now be done away with in the face of the united protest of the vakils of the High Court, and, let it also be said, of the representatives of public opinion in this Council.

Various points have been raised by Sir Abd-ur-Rahim not merely in the course of his speech to-day, but also on the previous occasion when he was speaking on the Budget. His first point is that this provision is being made at the instance of the High Court Judges and also of the Government of India and that we have only been asked to find the money. I say in reply that if the suggestion has come from the Judges of the High Court and endorsed by the Government of India, let the High Court or the Government of India, find the money. I say it is no business of theirs to call upon the provincial Government at a moment of financial stress to finance them to the tune of Rs. 1,30,000, not merely as a preliminary measure, not merely as an initial expenditure, but, let me say, as a sort of recurring expenditure year after year. It is true that most of this money is proposed to be realized from the litigants. But this will touch the poor tax-payers and the poor litigants and on this I will have to say something hereafter. I will only say now

that this is the thin end of the wedge and that this demand will b followed by a demand of nearly Rs. 7,00,000 for the establishment o a new building in the High Court to house the extra establishment tha is going to be set up for the preparation of paper-books.

The PRESIDENT: Your motion only refers to the grant o Rs. 1,30,000.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: Yes, but I am referring to th point in passing.

It has been said that this question is somewhat separated from th question relating to the new High Court rules. But this is not justifie by facts. This proposal of establishing a Paper-Book Department is part and parcel of that rule. But it is not as a protest against thes rules generally that I have come here to-day, but it is with reference t the particular question of paper-books that I am making this motion t the Council. It has been said, and perhaps it has been thought b some, that the Privy Council have left the High Court or the Govern ment no option but to institute this Department for the preparation o paper-books. But so far as the Privy Council judgments are con cerned—and we have the privilege of reading those judgments in print— we are not aware that beyond what the judgments have expressed—w do not know whether there has been a confidential communication—th Judges of the Privy Council have not communicated anything whic cannot bear public scrutiny. At any rate, nothing has been mad public in the matter. We have got the judgment of the Privy Counc and the observations of Their Lordships, so far as this particular matte is concerned. I would ask the House to remember that, if the Priv Council has made adverse remarks as regards the manner in whic paper-books are printed, it cannot be said that the High Court vakil do not come in at all for any share of that criticism. But it may no generally be known to this House that after an appeal is disposed of b the High Court and after leave is granted for appeal to His Majesty i Council the matter goes out of the hands of the vakils and the partie and the paper-books are printed in the High Court offices. If ther have been defects, it is the High Court offices which are to blame. I there are matters to which the criticism of the Privy Council relate, is not the vakils who are responsible, but it is the High Court and th High Court alone who is responsible and who is to bear the burden o that criticism.

Then, Sir, it has been said that the High Court is in the best pos tion to judge and it is not for us to make any comments but that it : for us simply to pay. I certainly challenge that position. As member of this Council we have got the right to examine any proposal for th expenditure of public money and, unless and until any new expenditu can be justified with the strongest reason, I submit we have got ever right to object to any recommendation, even though it may come fro

Judges of the highest court in the land. I hope it has not been it as a threat, for I cannot think that it was an argument meant to eriously put forward for the consumption of this House. It has been said that unnecessary printed matter is introduced by the s in the paper-books. As regards this matter, as soon as an appeal d a plaint has got to be prepared by the vakil of the appellant and it rutinized by the vakil of the respondent. In most cases the matter scussed in the presence of the vakils of both parties, and, if ssary, contentious matters are even discussed before the Court. mit that, if these safeguards are not sufficient, nothing that n imagination can conceive would be sufficient to correct any s in that direction.

ow, Sir, we come to the real point at issue. Why is it that we t? We object for the following reasons:—First on the question st. It will throw an unnecessary and heavy burden on the litigants out any commensurate advantage. I will give the House certain es. I have got some paper-books in my hand. I have collected for this purpose. Not that these paper-books were prepared by but they were prepared on the cases I was personally interested These paper-books are prepared in the offices of vakils and the are as follows:—Translation of vernacular words at the rate words per rupee, printing charge Re. 1-6; maximum and g charge 8 annas per page. Now, Sir, the High Court proposes ablish a Paper-Book Department, and this is the scale of cost, it proposes to levy:—Translation, 150 words per rupee as st 200 words of the vakils; printing not 24 copies, but 64 copies, is absolutely unnecessary, at Rs. 2-1 for the next six months hen Rs. 3-2; and editing at the rate of Re. 1 per page, as against kils' 8 annas. May I tell the House how the charges would work There are paper-books consisting of 1,000 pages, 300 pages 400 , 600 pages, and so on. In the case of a paper-book of 300 pages, il would charge Rs. 375, but if it is prepared in the High Court arge would be Rs. 875, that is to say more than double. For a book of 400 pages, the vakils' charge would be Rs. 750, and if it pared in the High Court the cost would be Rs. 1,450. For a book of 600 pages, a vakil would charge Rs. 1,125, while the Court would charge Rs. 2,475, nearly Rs. 1,300 in excess. And or litigant will have to pay all this excess money. It is not a matter for the litigant to pay so much more for his paper-book. ther day I heard Sir Abd-ur-Rahim say when he sat down that it t the cost of the paper-book that falls heavily on the litigant, is the high fees charged by lawyers. Sir, it is rather a delicate to be discussed—not that I have ever had the good fortune to heavy fancy fees myself, but I know that members of the legal sion to which I belong do not charge fancy fees. Heavy fees are d by members of the profession from which Sir Abd-ur-Rahim

comes—but their number is only a few. And most of the members the legal profession only charge fees which under the present circur stances are not even sufficient for bare subsistence. And it is extremely cruel remark to make that the members of the legal pr fession, who have the interest of their clients at heart, usually ma their charges so heavy as to tell hard on poor litigants who may come them for professional work. Sir Abd-ur-Rahim knows very well tha with a very few exceptions, the members of the legal profession do charge such fees as tell heavily on poor litigants, and it is adding insu to injury to suggest that the vakils of the High Court, as a body, charg such fees from litigants as could be made a subject of public complaint

Now, Sir, I ask, is all this extra cost justified? Government say "yes." And why? One of the reasons given is that the paper-bool are badly prepared. But are they really badly prepared? I ha argued hundreds of regular appeals and I challenge any one to say th the paper-books, which are prepared by the vakils contain errors which any mention need be made. They might contain one or tw printing mistakes, but do they really hinder the administration justice? If a little printing mistake hinders the administration of ju ice then it is high time that persons who are charged with the admin traton of justice should pack and bolt, leaving the administration other hands. Then it has been said that the paper-books are inor nately delayed leading to a delay in the disposal of cases. I would a my friends on this side of the House to bear with me for a minute wh I make it clear to them that it is not the vakils who are responsible f delay but the High Court Judges themselves who cannot dispose more than a certain number of cases because it is beyond human cap city to do so, and that is the reason why there is delay in the disposal cases. Human beings have got a limited capacity for work. Y cannot expect human beings to exert superhuman effort It is on th account that I objected to the reduction in the number of Minister I remember once being told by a friend of mine that, if you want vessel filled with water it does not matter if you dip it in a pond or i an ocean; the result is the same. Every human being has got a limite capacity for work, even if he is paid half a lakh of rupees a year.

As I have said before, paper-books on second appeals are prepared i the High Court. In the case of paper-books on special appeals, whic I have in my hand now, one is numbered 2646 of 1913. In this case t appeal was filed on the 14th of August 1913 and it was not disposed till the 31st of March 1915, that is, two years after, and would th Council be surprised to hear that the paper-book in this case containe only 14 pages of printed matter?

The PRESIDENT: I wish just to remind the member that he h only got a few minutes more, and the House will then adjourn to enal Muhammadan members to offer their prayers.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: The House can adjourn for prayer at en minutes past six when my time-limit will expire. I think I am ntitled to half an hour under the rules.

In the case, which I have cited, the paper-book was prepared in igh Court offices. In another case an appeal was filed on the 9th of uly 1912, and it was not disposed of till November 1915. Here the akils do not come in at all. In another case the appeal was filed in ugust 1911, and it was not disposed of till the 27th of July 1913. he paper-book in another case was filed in 1914, and the case was not isposed of till June 1916. In another case the paper-book was filed on he 17th of November 1913, and the case was disposed of on the 14th of arch 1916. So much for the second appeal papers. As regards the rst appeal cases in the case numbered 18 of 1917, the paper-book was eady in 1918, and the case was disposed of on the 7th of February 1918 uch is the case not only with this appeal, but also with other original ppeals, because it is not a fact that Judges have to sit down idle and ait for paper-books to be prepared for them. They are prepared in ue time, but the fact is that the Judges cannot take up these appeals. t the present moment some original appeals filed in 1919 are still ndisposed of, and I challenge Sir Abd-ur-Rahim to contradict this statement, though the paper-books have been prepared long ago. And to hom is this delay to be attributed? Certainly not to the vakils who repared the paper-books long ago. Then, Sir, it has been said that the umber of Privy Council appeals is over 55 per cent. So far as I am ware there must be some error in calculation. The appeals that really o up to the Privy Council are, I think, much smaller in number. hen, Sir, this proposal for a separate establishment in the High Court ould entail an additional cost to the litigants. We say that this dditional cost is not justified, first, because we are not able to spare the oney, although we have been given a promise that the money would be eturned to us after realization from the litigants; secondly, because e do not feel that this additional cost thrown on the litigants is at all ommensurate with the advantages that will accrue. We object to eing told that the vakils of the High Court prepare paper-books carelessly. We object to being told that the paper-books are prepared in a anner which hamper and delay cases. We protest against the suggestion that it is the vakils who are responsible for the delay that may occur n the hearing of appeals, and we also protest against what I may call n insinuation that it is because some of the vakils make a portion of heir living by preparing paper-books and that these vakils would be ard hit by the discontinuance of the present practice—therefore, his motion has been brought forward in the interest of such members f my profession. Before I sit down I wish to say that it is not in the nterest of vakils that I have brought this motion. The vakils, I hope, an take care of themselves, but it is in the interest of the dignity, the restige and the honour of the High Court that I wish to have this

matter debated in Council. I have brought forward this motion not in the interest of any branch of the profession, but in the interest of poor litigants who cannot bear the burden of costly litigation. It is in the interest of such members of the public, who have occasion to have recourse to the highest court of justice in the land, that I bring forward this motion, because by the rules of our profession the interests of this section of the public are our most sacred task.

[At this stage the House adjourned for fifteen minutes].

After the adjournment.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I do not want to mar the effect of the speech already made by my friend, Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq, on this important subject by taking up the time of the House and of the members All that I can say is that, personally speaking, I have no sons and relations who are vakils of the High Court and who will be benefited if the work of translation remains in then hands. I myself have never undertaken the preparation of a paper-book during my career as a vakil for more than 35 years, but I must say that the work of the preparation of paper-books has been of some help to the junior members of the Bar. There have been struggling juniors, who have risen very high, and, if it had not been for the preparation of paper-books, which they had in their early career as vakils, they would probably have not remained in the High Court and met the bare expenses of Calcutta life. The young vakils of the High Court have done their work exceedingly well. I may tell the members of this House that some years ago the High Court Judges ruled that the work of translation of the vakils should be revised by an editor—by an expert. After a few years it was found that there was absolutely no necessity for having these experts to examine the translations of the vakils, because they did their work exceedingly well. That shows unmistakably that the High Court Judges, at least then, thought that there was no necessity for interfering with the work which was then going on. The High Court Judges have the absolute power of removing the name of a vakil from the list of those who undertake preparation of paper-books, if they think that the work which he has done is not up to the mark. I would ask the members of the House if they have ever heard of a name of any vakil being removed from such a list. If that is not the case, has a case been made out by the Judges of the High Court to frame new rules for the preparation of paper-books and to take away the work from the vakils? As I have said, I do not want to take up a long time, but I must tell the members who are sitting opposite and who represent the mercantile community of Calcutta, that they must consider the matter very carefully. To them it is a matter of academic interest I know, because litigation to them does not cost more than Rs. 50 or Rs. 60. Their cases are disposed of by arbitration and so they are not at all interested whether litigation is cheap or expeditious to the poor people. I got the figure of Rs. 60 myself from the Secretary

of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, when I moved my resolution for the establishment of a City Court in Calcutta. I think litigation must be cheap and must be expeditious, and I have seen that, whenever there has been an order for expedition in the cases of paper-books by the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court, the vakils of the Court have found themselves equal to the occasion and they have prepared paper-books of 400 to 500 pages in the course of a fortnight or a month, thus showing that in urgent matters they are quite capable of carrying out the orders of the Court. We must see that litigation must be cheap, so that the doors of the poor people may not be shut to them, but, if the present rules be enforced, as they are intended to be, then I think, very few people would come to the High Court, as it would be to them as costly as the Original Side of the High Court.

With these remarks I beg to support the motion.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I do not think I shall be justified in detaining the Council after the lucid and illuminating speech of my friend, Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq. When I was very closely following the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim, it appeared to me that he was trying to find out some good arguments in favour of this change, and I found that he was not in his best mood and he could not find any arguments, except that the Privy Council had found fault with some of the paper-books. But that argument does not stand, because the paper-books for the Privy Council are not made by the vakils, but are made by that very Department of the High Court, into whose hands, the whole thing is now going to be placed. Therefore that is an argument which has absolutely no value.

Then comes the question of delay. It is a fact well known, I suppose, to all of us, who have to deal with the High Court and to the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim that, whenever there are extraordinary delays in getting up paper-books, it has generally been the practice to take the work from the office and to make it over to the vakils for the purpose of getting it done expeditiously. I ask anybody to challenge this. Therefore, there is absolutely no reason why the existing system which has been going on for the last 38 years should be done away with, especially when this system was introduced by the late Sir Ramesh Chandra Mitter on the lines of the procedure that was followed in England. I find that in England also it is the parties who pay the actual expense of printing, binding, etc., and the preparation of the paper-books is left to the parties; and I find that the ordinary rate is 1½*d* per folio and that even during the war it did not go up more than 2¼*d*. per folio. Under the procedure that is now suggested by the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim or by the Honourable the High Court, I find that the expenses are to go up 220 per cent. In the place of Rs. 373, it will go up to Rs. 885; in the place of Rs. 750, it will go up to Rs. 1,650; and in the place of Rs. 1,125, it will go up to Rs. 2,475. Is

there the slightest justification for this enormous increase? Now, to look to the other side of the picture, the Hon'ble Member has said that only a certain part of this amount is necessary for the preparation of paper-books, that is about Rs. 273 he said, and the remaining Rs. 52, which is to be gathered from the litigants in the name of making paper-books, is to be spent for some other purpose. It is unlike the High Court, and I am very sorry that the High Court could have made any such recommendation.

Then there is another thing, and that is this. I think it might be said—and it has been said—that the present system has not worked well. But it has been working for the last 40 years, and there has never been any complaint, till all on a sudden this change was proposed. There is another point of view which I would suggest. It has been said that some junior vakils earn a considerable portion of living from this paper-book making business. I quite admit it; but is it not a very desirable thing? Anybody who has ever practised in a court of law knows that to get your paper-book properly made is of great help to the young men who are in charge of those appeals, inasmuch as they can have everything on their fingers' ends, when the argument is proceeding, they can help the seniors by referring them to certain pages as to the facts of the case. I do not think a more useful service could be expected from the juniors. In the sister profession amongst the Barristers it is well-known that in the beginning of their career they have got to live possibly by being receivers of estates and all that. That is the stepping stone. I know of a man who began life preparing paper-books as a junior vakil, afterwards became a Judge of the High Court and has now left the High Court. It is part of the duty of juniors, and I find the same is the practice in England. I am afraid that this is the thin end of the wedge. I am not in position to say whether the High Court have already sent proposals to the Government of India asking for another Rs. 6 lakhs—and that will perhaps come to us next year, and therefore I think we must be on our guard to see that next year we are not told that it is already there and we cannot do anything with it. I do not think that it is proper in the interests of the litigants in general. I strongly protest against this innovation, which admittedly raises the cost by 200 per cent. The Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim has said that no printing house in Calcutta would undertake the printing of these papers. Quite so. The market rate is there—the market rate is Re. 1-6 per folio, and what the Government demands is Rs. 3-2. Is that fair? Is that proper? When this could be had for Re. 1-6, why this additional taxation on the poor people, who do not come to the High Court as a matter of luxury, but mostly to fight against their landlords? The result of this additional taxation will be that many people will run away and there will be by far a small number of appeals, and therefore it will tell very hard on the people.

For these reasons I would ask the House to support the motion.

Mr. S. R. DAS: I did not at first intend to intervene in this debate ecause, so far as the members of this House, who are connected with he High Court are concerned, we have discussed the matter over and ver again, and I certainly am in sympathy with everything that has allen from the mover of this amendment and from those who supported him. I feel that the new rules are likely to create great hardhip on the litigants and I certainly was prepared, so far as I had heard p to that time, to vote in favour of the motion, but a matter has been rought to my notice only within the last hour which has placed me n some difficulty in supporting this motion, and I desire to place that efore the members of the Council. It appears that it is the Privy ouncil which has directed that the High Court should prepare all aper-books in cases which are appealable to the Privy Council, that is ver Rs. 10,000 in value, in the same manner as they now prepare the aper-books in appeals which actually go up to the Privy Council; that s to say, although the present practice is for the High Court to prepare aper-books only in those cases which go up to the Privy Council, ccording to the orders of the Privy Council the High Court has got to rint not only in cases which actually go up to the Privy Council but n cases which may go up to the Privy Council. The Privy Council has irected that a sufficient number of copies should be struck off in all hese cases, that is in cases above Rs. 10,000, and if there are appeals o the Privy Council, in those cases, a sufficient number of copies of the aper-books should be sent on to them. It appears to me that the order f the Privy Council is likely to create a good deal of hardship, because, lthough an appeal may not go up to the Privy Council, the appellant vill have to pay the cost of preparing paper-books not only necessary for he High Court, but also for the Privy Council. I fully realise that the rder itself is likely to create a good deal of hardship, but the position s this: we are not in a position to say that that order should not be arried out. The High Court, so far as I am aware, is bound to give ffect to the orders of the Privy Council, for the obvious reasons that he Privy Council may refuse to entertain an appeal which has not been rinted in the form and in the manner they have suggested. Whatever ardship it has created, I feel that we must resort to other methods for he purpose of inducing the Privy Council to withdraw that order; but, ince that order has been made, how can the High Court avoid having n establishment for the purpose of carrying out that order? That is he difficulty that I feel in supporting the motion for refusing the hole of the demand for Rs. 1,30,000.

Now when this matter was brought to my notice, I immediately poke of it to those friends of mine, who are supporting this motion, nd I was told that there was no such order from the Privy Council in is direction. Upon that I asked that the original letter or rather a rinted copy of it should be put in my hands, and I find this is what the rivy Council has stated.

I read from this letter:—

Their Lordships further agree with the suggestion that the records in all appeals to the Appellate Courts in India of Rs. 10,000 (appealable amount) in value, where the record is ordinarily printed for the Appellate Court, should, unless the Court otherwise directs, be printed in Privy Council form and should be arranged in the manner set out below, so as to avoid reprinting the book if the case comes before the Privy Council. A sufficient number of copies should be struck off to meet the requirements of both the Appellate Court and the Privy Council.

In connection with this alteration in practice their Lordships are of opinion that all paper-books should be prepared under the direct supervision of officers of the Appellate Court, as they understand, is the practice in the Calcutta High Court in the case of second appeals . . . Their Lordships therefore desire that the Appellate Courts should be asked to frame a rule giving effect to the suggestion in all appeals of Rs. 10,000 appealable amount in value.

As I have said, it appears to me, as at present advised, that this is an extremely hard order on the litigants, but there is that order, and the High Court is bound to follow that order, and in order to follow that order it has got to keep an establishment in order to carry out that order. I have also been informed that the number of appeals of Rs. 10,000 and above is 55 per cent. of all regular appeals, but the whole of this 55 per cent. does not go up to the Privy Council.

This figure has been challenged. I am not in a position to state whether that figure is correct or not because I have not looked into it myself. Therefore I do not propose, in the remarks that I am going to make, to attach the slightest importance to that figure. Whether it is 45, 55 or 65 per cent. an establishment has to be kept for the purpose of printing these paper-books. I suggest that the best course would be to—and I do not know why the members of the legal profession should not—represent to the Judges of the High Court that at least a percentage of appeals, whether 45, 55 or 65 per cent. which are for values of less than Rs. 10,000 should be printed as they are being printed now by the vakils. Whether the Judges of the High Court will agree to that I cannot say, but what makes it difficult for me to support this amendment is the fact that an establishment is to be kept for this, and, if the establishment has to be kept, I am not in a position to ask for the reduction of the whole grant of Rs. 1,30,000 to the High Court for this purpose. I would be prepared to support any resolution which would have the effect of reducing it to such an amount as would be required for the preparation of paper-books of cases of value of Rs. 10,000 and above. Under these circumstances it is for the members of this Council to consider how far our sympathy with the litigants should carry us. I think it will make appeals difficult and help the rich litigants at the expense of the poor ones. I am of opinion that the best and most practical way is to work these things in a direct way; and I leave it to the Council to judge how far they will be justified in supporting a resolution which prevents the High Court from carrying out an order which has been passed by the Privy Council.

The PRESIDENT: I may mention here that I have a long list of speakers.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I desire that this matter should be voted to-day.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: I am to support this amendment, but I am sorry I have not been called upon to do so.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: May I now speak?

Sir, it has been admitted that it will be a great hardship on the people of this country if the cost of the preparation of the paper-books is increased nearly three times. What is the justification for it? Mr. S. R. Das comes and tells us that he has only got the facts to-day and upon that knowledge he opposes this resolution. He says he knew this information only half an hour ago, but I knew it 12 months before. The pleaders also knew it very well and, if the other speakers did not refer to it, it was an oversight. The Privy Council no doubt has said that for any appeals for Rs. 10,000 and upwards in value the paper-books should be printed by the office. It is absolutely absurd to suppose that 55 per cent. of the regular appeals are for Rs. 10,000. I make bold to say that the figure is not more than 10 per cent. Now, what justification is there for 90 per cent. of the paper-books being printed by the office? And as regards this 10 per cent. also, the remedy is quite clear. Mr. S. R. Das thinks that there is no other way except these being printed by the office, but the way is clear and it was pointed out to the High Court that they have only to select a few from among the pleaders and entrust them with the preparation of the paper-books for appeals of Rs. 10,000 and upwards. The said remedy they would not accept. That letter of the Privy Council everybody knows is an excuse. The High Court wants to take away the work from the pleaders and appoint their own men. Before I go into that question I want to ask the High Court that although Rs. 78,000 is required for the cost of establishment, why do they ask for Rs. 1,30,000? I think the extra Rs. 52,000 is for improving the pay of the staff. Have they got any right to exact this sum as taxes from the litigants for the improvement of the pay of the staff and can they take it as a cost of the preparation of the paper-books?

Now, Sir, I come to my last point. People are very diffident of speaking of self-interest but self-interest rules the world. More than 100 vakils of the High Court make a living by the preparation of the paper-books. Why take it away from them? The pleaders, by a majority of 75 per cent., have resolved that they should strike if this privilege is taken away. I would not say whether they are right or wrong, but they would be an addition of strength to Mahatma Gandhi and it would be an act of extreme folly to allow them to strike. What is the justification for taking away this privilege from the vakils? The only justification

there may be is that the work will be a little better done; but I have been long in the High Court, and I can most emphatically say that the work has been hitherto well done. For the simple reason that this work may be a little better done, are these young men, who are making an honest living by the preparation of the paper-books to be deprived of their means of livelihood? I say it is neither politic nor humane, and I trust that no member of this Council would support the proposal for the grant of this amount.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: The speakers that have preceded me are members of the High Court, and now a mufassal member has been called. I do not know if that is the reason why I am called so late, though my name stands second in the list of motions for amendment. Sir, I think that the preparation of paper-books by the High Court—a demand for which has just been moved by the Hon'ble Judicial Member—is a great hardship upon the poor litigants. The work of the preparation of paper-books is to be divided into two parts. The first part is a translation of the vernacular papers. Sir, everyone in this Council will bear with me that the translation from the vernacular papers done by the vakils is much better than the translation done by the translating department of the High Court. There are very many vakils; I do not say that they make an honest living by it, but this employment is a necessity. I beg to submit to this House that the employment of so many vakils in the High Court is a necessity for translating vernacular papers. The translation of the vernacular papers, which contain many legal terms, cannot but be done by special men who are trained in law. Therefore, I say that it is a necessity. I say, if the High Court want to have a good translation of the papers from the Lower Court, it can only be done by means of employing vakils in the High Court who know the legal terms, legal phraseology and the countrymen with whom they come in contact. I therefore submit that it cannot but be done by the vakils practising in the High Court. The junior vakils make an honest living, no doubt, but I say that it is a necessity. If the High Court want to alter that practice, it would be detrimental to the administration of justice. The second part concerns the printing a mechanical and not a judicial work. I do not think that the High Court should be provided with a printing press to compete with the hundreds of presses in this country. I think, therefore, I can say that it should be done, as it has been done for the last 40 years. Mr. S. R. Das has said that the paper-books on appeals of the value of about Rs. 10,000 are to be printed, and they can be printed by the present method that is prevailing in the High Court. But I beg to submit that claims of over Rs. 10,000 are done by the High Court in their office. Therefore it does not come for our decision. Under these circumstances I move that the grant be refused.

Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI: I move that the question be now put.

The PRESIDENT: The time-limit has not been reached and I do not hink that the question should be put.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I desire to say a few words with regard to the lemand of Rs. 1,30,000 for the preparation of paper-books in the High Court. I have followed very closely the impassioned speech of my friend, Mr. A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, and while I congratulate him upon the zeal and eloquence with which he has advocated the cause of vakils, I confess I am nable to say that his remarks have dissipated my doubts and difficulties egarding the question of our interference with the demand for the provision of Rs. 1,30,000 for the preparation of paper-books in the High Court. I may say at once that nobody is more anxious than I am that the vakils should have justice, if they think that justice has been denied o them, in the matter of the preparation of paper-books. But I submit hat the proper forum for them to appeal to is not this Council but the Judges of the Court where they practice. I will explain briefly why I ay this. Sir, we are here not as champions of any particular section of our countrymen but to protect and safeguard the interests of the general public. The Judges of the High Court by virtue of the right they possess nder the Charter have framed a rule by which paper-books will now be prepared in the office of the Court. Their object in making this rule is hat the ends of justice will be better served by having the paper-books speedily and efficiently prepared in their own office. The vast litigant public is not before us complaining that any wrong has been done to them by this new rule. If their complaints were before us we might have considered whether we ought to interfere in this matter. But so far as I know they have not complained. The vakils of course are complaining. The question, however, is whether in the interest of the vakils we should nterfere with the internal administration of the High Court. Remember hat any reduction of the demand for Rs. 1,30,000 will amount to an nterference with the internal administration of the High Court. s it right that we should interfere, unless there are very reat and overwhelming reasons? Remember also that no Parliament, o Legislature can assume the functions of administration. The proper unctions of this Council is to criticise and guide the policy of those who re carrying on the administration. That is our normal function. I ubmit therefore that we should not lightly take upon ourselves the resonsibility of interfering with the internal administration of the High Court. I say again that, if the vakils think that justice has been denied o them, the proper course for them is to appeal to the Judges and seek edress of their grievance.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I am exceedingly thankful to you for giving me a chance of speaking on the subject when unfortunately was not in the room. Mr. S. R. Das has to a great extent anticipated me and therefore I do not desire to go over the same ground. So far s I can understand, this matter has caused a great deal of feeling in ertain quarters. There is a feeling abroad that in this matter the

Judges of the Privy Council have perhaps gone mad, and the speec that have fallen from some of the members of this House seem to cre the impression that the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court have a gone mad, that they have leagued together and conspired against poor litigants, and that they have no interest in the welfare of the l gants in this country. So far as I could understand from the speec against the motion for this grant, the objection rested on two groun viz., that the cost of printing the paper-books had gone up three tim and the junior vakils of the High Court are going to be deprived of th honest living. I am in a position to make the statement that Hon'ble Judges of the High Court have selected 40 vakils for appoi ment for this very purpose, and, if the department grows, more vak will be appointed. It is simply because the rules that have been fran by the Judges of the High Court are in suspense for the time being th the letters of appointments have not been issued. As regards the co I may be permitted to put in one or two remarks. As one who was printer for five years and who is in close contact with printing pres for at least 25 years, I may say that, if the cost of printing of pap books has gone up, the Judges of the High Court are not responsible it. The prices of paper, stationery and ink have gone up and 20 or vakils have petitioned the High Court Judges to increase the ra substantially. The request has gone up from the vakils to the Hi Court Judges. If it is going to cost the litigants more, the High Co Judges are not in the least responsible.

I understand that under the Letters Patent the High Court Judg are the sole judge of deciding as to how the paper-books should be p pared. I do not know whether this House has any jurisdiction coerce the High Court to act against their own discretion. Wh power has this Council to compel them to do so? I do not think th are in the least competent to compel the High Court to act again their wishes. At this late hour of the day I do not like to take up a more time of the Council.

Maulvi FAZL-UL HAQ: I move that the question be now put.

Adjournment.

The PRESIDENT: I must give the Hon'ble Member in charge the department the right of his reply. The Council stands adjourn till 3 P.M. to-morrow.

oceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council assembled at 3 P.M., on the 16th March 1921, in the uncil Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four members of the ecutive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers and 122 nominated 1 elected members.

Communications to the President.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): fore commencing the business of the day, I desire to read out two lers which have been received by the Secretary to the Council:—

NARAJOLE PALACE,

Midnapore, the 10th March 1921.

AR SIR,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd ultimo, conveying me and the other members of my family, at the direction of the Hon'ble the sident, an expression of sympathy of the Council in the sad bereavement which befallen us. I write to you at once that we feel extremely grateful to the n'ble the President for his sympathetic reference to the Council on the occasion he death of my father, as well as to the members of the Council for their message condolence. I may, however, say that we are sustained in our bereavement by thought that our loss is shared by the colleagues of my father and a large circle is friends, and shall feel obliged if you kindly place this letter before the Council.

Yours truly,

(Sd.) DEBENDRA LAL KHAN.

The other letter is as follows:—

Dated Calcutta, the 15th March 1921

AR SIR,

I beg to acknowledge with thanks, your letter No. 752 L, dated the 11th March veying to me and to the other members of the family, the deep sympathy of Council in our grievous loss and enclosing a copy of the reference made at the ting of the Council held on the 28th February last, to the death of my late her, Sir Rash Behary Ghose. I should feel much obliged by your kindly veying to the Hon'ble the President and the members of the Bengal Legis- e Council, our deep sense of appreciation of the feeling terms in which refer- was made in the Council, and our grateful thanks for their kind message of pathy in our great bereavement.

Yours truly,

(Sd.) BEPIN BEHARY GHOSE.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: Before the discussion is taken up, may I venture to ask you a question? I understand certain leaflets were printed by the department concerned, the Judicial Department, and were given to some of the members of this Council, but not to all. They were printed at public expense and were given only to certain members and not to those who moved motions in this particular respect.

The PRESIDENT: We have nothing to do with that.

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): Government are not aware of the distribution of any leaflets; the Judicial Department have certainly not distributed any.

Voting of Grants.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Order! The discussion on the motion to refuse the grant for "paper-books" will now be resumed.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: Some objections have been raised as to the propriety of our interfering with this provision. As regards the question of delay it has been discussed at length by my friend, Mr. Fazl-ul Haq. As regards inaccuracy, I think necessary arrangements for checking can be made; as regards efficiency, I hear, only a year ago the practice was that translations used to be examined in the office, and that was dispensed with, simply because the work done by the vakils was thought sufficient. If it was done away with only a year ago, where is the necessity of starting it again? I notice that my friend, Mr. S. R. Das, has been taken into confidence by the High Court, and as Standing Counsel he can well defend the actions of the High Court, but at the same time what he has said is, I think, quite sufficient to convince us, that the very idea of the circumstances from which the idea originated, shows that the system which has been working well for the last 40 years should not be discontinued and the revelation that it was on account of the suggestion of Their Lordships in the Privy Council the introduction of the rules was necessitated, is a condemnation, a sufficient condemnation, of the rules. So far as I understand, Their Lordships suggested that something should be done to reduce the cost of appeals. The Lord Chancellor is reported to have said that the cost of litigation must be reduced as well as the intolerable prolongation of the hearing of appeals. Here, Sir, is a distinct pronouncement that the cost of appeals should be reduced as far as possible; but instead of that, under the new arrangement, as has been shown by my friend, Mr. Haq, the poor litigant is going to be involved in the payment of three times the present cost! The present system is, that in Privy Council appeals a fresh paper-book is prepared necessitating double cost. But, as now arranged, instead of reducing they are going to increase the cost of the steps, by which justice is to be secured, to an

rbitant amount. And then, why should not this be adopted in cases the Original Side? Why this differential treatment? Is it because High Court Judges are afraid of the stronger brethren of the Vakils, nean the Barristers? I understand, Sir, some of the High Court lges, have decided to bring about this change; but I am also told t some of them are opposed to it. It would not be out of place to say t, Mr. President, when you adorned the High Court, you were osed to such a procedure. Mr. Das says that some other means nld be adopted for improving the administration of justice. This is admission that something is wrong, and there is a good cause for our rference, because there is no justification whatever for increasing the of paper-books; it is, to my mind, irregular. If there is any special essity for this, and any provision is necessary, then a fresh proposal come up in proper form, and may be considered later on. At pre- in the form in which it has now come, it cannot be supported.

There are many things which I would like to say, but as the time ny disposal is very short, I am obliged to be brief. A suggestion been made that junior vakils will be hard put to if the present tice is done away with! Well, Sir, the prosperity or otherwise of vakils is not our concern so far as the present resolution is con- ied; we are not here to safeguard any particular interests; we have come here to dispense patronage to our beneficiaries. It is for the he interests that we are here, and what we have pledged ourselves s to see that the welfare of the public as a whole does not suffer, that the good of the general community is not sacrificed for the ms and conveniences of vested interests.

With these remarks I beg to commend the resolution to the accept- of the House.

Mr. R. M. WATSON-SMYTH: I must oppose this motion. We heard a good deal about the preparation of these books from the t of view of the lawyer; may I put forward the point of view of the but necessary litigant? It seems to me that he is at the moment a frightened sheep standing and watching a quarrel between two rers, as to which is going to fleece him. It does not much matter ther his fleece comes off by the sharp and efficient shears of the rules of the High Court, or is torn from him by the clippers of the l; but what does occur to me, is how all this affects this Council. eems to me that as the tax-payer has not got to pay, or rather, as provincial Government has only got to put up the money for the being and get it back later, it is not a matter over which the nders of economy, or the defenders of the tax-payer may wax elo- nt. It seems to me to be much more a matter for the High Court ettle themselves, and that this Council should not be dragged into

As I understand it, the old procedure of 40 years ago, as Mr. Fazl-ul Haq has told us, has apparently broken down, and the Privy Council will have no more of it, and the alternative seems to have been presented to the Judges of the High Court either to have two procedures, one for the first appeals and one for the second, or to allow the old system to go, and to have one procedure for the lot. I understand after due consideration the latter alternative has been decided on. The Chamber have considered these rules, which were made in consequence of this decision last November, and have come to the conclusion that what the Judges have decided constitutes a useful and salutary reform, and that it would be likely to lead to efficiency, possibly economy—if such a word can ever be used in connection with litigation—and certainly despatch.

I am perfectly well aware, that the printing rates are now higher, but I understand that a great deal of extraneous matter which used to be introduced into the paper-books under the old régime in order to bring prices up, can now be cut down. These new rules did not please everybody. There were certain vested interests which were up in arms at once, and I understand a petition was presented to the High Court, considered by them and rejected; and so it is, I suppose, rather as a continuation of this petition that the matter now comes up in its present form in the Council.

It seems to me that, if this item is expunged from the Budget, I suppose it is hoped that the new procedure in the High Court will be rendered impossible and therefore that the old régime will be renewed. I very much doubt whether this will be so; the rules have been made by the Judges of the High Court after very mature consideration, and, if by some manœuvre on the part of the opponents of this resolution, this Council can wipe out the money with which to carry these rules out, I cannot see any result except chaos. Is it to be supposed that the Judges of the High Court will accept this resolution and recede from the position which they have taken up, and thereby practically admit that they are subservient to the members of this Council? It may be so; I do not know. If it is so, then I must say that it will come as a very great surprise to anyone who knows the traditions of the High Court. It seems much more likely that chaos will result and that the poor litigant will suffer. The vakils will not get their paper-books, the Judges cannot print theirs, because there is no money, and the litigant will suffer. And worse than that, it seems to me that this Council will be brought into direct conflict with the High Court, a thing which, at any rate, at this stage of its proceedings, a sane man would avoid at any cost. I hope the good sense of the Council will prevail, and that this amendment will be thrown out.

Sir ASHUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I regret, having listened to all these speeches since yesterday, that several false issues have been raised in this

matter. We may have misunderstood, at any rate, the learned members of this Council who have addressed you; they have not pointed out as to how the Privy Council came to make this suggestion. The Privy Council complained that there were delays, threw the burden on the High Court, and said that the High Court was responsible for these delays. The High Court, in answer, said they were not responsible for these delays; books had to be reprinted in cases of appeals over Rs. 10,000 to satisfy the requirements of the Privy Council; this takes time. The Privy Council then said that with regard to appeals over Rs. 10,000, it would have to be arranged in this way; do not have new books printed, but print them in such a manner that the litigants may be spared fresh cost of reprinting. The idea is that these books should be printed in conformity with the directions of the Privy Council. Lord Birkenhead pointed out that the cost to the litigant must be reduced. That is so far as the administration of justice is concerned. It was to remove a hardship and not to create one that the Privy Council made this suggestion. That is the first thing I want to place before the House.

The next thing is this: The Privy Council has given these directions; the Privy Council is only concerned with appeals over Rs. 10,000; it has nothing to do with appeals below Rs. 10,000. We will accept the figure given, that 55 per cent. of appeals are over Rs. 10,000; appeals to the value of Rs. 10,000 may be about 50 per cent. or, if we take the official figures, 55 per cent. It may be less. I have been handling these figures for over 30 years, and I know what the value of these figures is. So far as the Privy Council is concerned, it has only given directions with regard to the books in cases which go right up to them. The books may be printed, and a certain number kept in reserve.

Then comes the question of the direction from the Privy Council, which we ought not to ignore. As a matter of fact it is not a direction, it is merely a suggestion as to what is to be done. The Privy Council cannot direct us in this matter. The Privy Council has written a letter to the Government of India and the Government of India communicated it to the High Court, and there is correspondence going on. This is a matter of arrangement between the High Court and the Privy Council.

It has been said that this is an interference with the administration of justice by the High Court. How is that so? It is the privilege of this House to consider the matter, when you ask for money, and it is for you to decide whether you are prepared to give the money or not. It is only a question of ways and means as far as we are concerned. It is a power given to this House to control expenditure. The question then arises: What about the half of those appeals, which are not required to be printed according to the directions of the Privy Council? As has

repeatedly been pointed out, the question of efficiency is not before us; the system has been in practice for 40 years, and translations made by vakils were found to be adequate; in fact, they said it was beautifully done, and now we are told that the system has hopelessly failed How? Hopelessly failed, after 30 years! Marvellous! Therefore I submit to you that these false issues ought to be removed. It is an admitted fact that the cost to the litigant is being increased.

Then, again, with regard to the junior vakils: this House is not at all concerned with them, though there may be a certain number of them present here who practically live on the money realised from these translations. It being an admitted fact that the cost to the litigant is going to be high, Lord Birkenhead, the Lord Chancellor, said that this cost must be reduced. Having regard to the fact that this practice has been in existence for 40 years, and that no urgency has been made out now to abolish it in this manner, I support the amendment.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I beg that the question be now put.

The PRESIDENT: A similar motion was made yesterday, and I thought that it would not be proper to accept the motion, because the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim had not been given an opportunity to reply. I will now call upon Sir Abd-ur-Rahim to reply. After he has replied, I will then consider a motion to this effect.

Maulvi FAZL-UL HAQ: I rise to a point of order. I do not think that the Government Member has a right to reply.

The PRESIDENT: It is Sir Abd-ur-Rahim's motion to which amendments have been moved; he has, therefore, the right to reply.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: With reference to the motion before this Council, I quite agree with the learned mover, Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq and with Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri, that we must deal with the question from the point of view of the general public and carefully consider how far public interest is going to be affected by the question before this Council, and not from the point of view of any individual professional gentlemen, however much they may be affected by the operation of the rules laid down by the High Court.

I must make a complaint as regards what Mr. Fazl-ul Haq suggested about myself, that I have been rather cruel and hard on the pleaders. Certainly I do not remember having said anything which could possibly be construed in that light. As a matter of fact, if I may be permitted to say so, I have always tried to uphold the cause of the profession whenever the chance arose. And, Sir, I studiedly used extremely moderate language when I stated the general position with reference to this question. I will now refer the Council to the reasons which

the High Court have given for instituting this establishment. In September last, this is what the High Court said:—

In reply I am to say that the important questions raised in this correspondence have received the careful consideration of their Lordships. The whole subject of the preparation of paper-books has been brought under examination, with the result that it has been decided that paper-books in all appeals from Original Decrees (called Regular Appeals), irrespective of the value of the appeals, should be prepared under the direct supervision of officers of the High Court. The objections to limiting such a rule to appeals of the minimum value of Rs. 10,000, as suggested by the Privy Council, are, first, that vakils filing appeals might be tempted to undervalue them, and, secondly, that some paper-books in appeals from Original Decrees would be prepared in the offices of the vakils, while others would be prepared in the Court's office. In that case two sets of rules would be required, which would be confusing both to the public and to the office and difficult to work in actual practice. Moreover any regular appeal, even if it be below Rs. 10,000 in value may form the subject of appeal to the Privy Council either on an important point of law or by consolidation with other appeals. In such cases, the High Court would be technically responsible for the accuracy of the Privy Council record, although, in practice, it might have been impossible to exercise any control over its preparation. In view of the above considerations and the fact that paper-books prepared by vakils have frequently left much to be desired, the Hon'ble the Acting Chief Justice and the Judges have deemed it expedient finally to adopt the principle that all paper-books should be prepared in the office of the High Court, it being provided that paper-books in urgent cases may be prepared out of Court, upon good cause being shown.

Their Lordships' decision on this subject, together with the adoption of the instructions of the Privy Council as regards the arrangement of the record, have necessitated an extensive revision of the Appellate Side rules. In framing the necessary amendments, the Judges have examined the existing rules as a whole and have revised any rules which they found to be out of date or capable of improvement.

Then, in December last, the High Court were even more emphatic as to their requirements in this respect. They say:—

In practice, the majority of such paper-books were actually prepared in the offices of the vakils and printed in a number of small private presses selected for this purpose by the vakils undertaking the preparation of the paper-books. The printing rate sanctioned by the former rules of the Court for work of this nature was 14 annas a page. This rate has remained unchanged since 1886 when it was probably sufficient in view of the economic conditions then prevailing to meet the cost of printing work suitable for the purpose, but the steady rise in prices during recent years without any corresponding modification of the sanctioned rate for printing has resulted in the steady deterioration in the quality of the paper-book work entrusted to vakils. Generally speaking, such paper-books are badly printed and badly arranged and, as stated in paragraph 4 of the Privy Council's letter, dated the 27th November 1919, the necessity for some radical modification of the Court's former procedure was emphasised in the Court's letter, dated the 7th February, 1917, in which it was stated that "a reason for the present delay is the haphazard manner in which paper-books from which appeals to the Privy Council arose are prepared by the vakils, with the result that the sworn examiners have, in a large number of cases, practically to prepare a new paper-book and to refer to the original documents." The disadvantages of the former practice were, in fact, so many and so great, that the Judges were of opinion that it was a source of considerable danger and might result in a serious miscarriage of Justice.

Then they say:

It will be seen that in accordance with note 3 to rule 24 of Chapter VI and rule of Chapter IX of the Revised Appellate Side Rules, every paper-book must e printed in the Government Press, unless the Registrar shall otherwise direct. 'his provision was considered necessary in view of the inadequacy of the printing rrangements in the presses patronised by vakils, the general bad quality of work ı those presses and the constant delays in the preparation of paper-books, the rinting of which was undertaken by them. It was found, on the other hand, hat the quality of work in the Government Press left little to be desired and that ll details regarding the preparation of paper-books received the most careful atten-on in that Press.

As regards the instructions of the Privy Council, Sir Ashutosh 'haudhuri is wrong. This is what the Privy Council laid down. I hink it was read out by Mr. S. R. Das yesterday. This is what they aid in this connection:—

Their Lordships are of opinion that all paper-books should be prepared under he direct supervision of the officers of the Appellate Side as they understand is he practice in the Calcutta High Court in the case of the second appeals.

They then say:

Their Lordships therefore desire that the Appellate Court should be asked to rame a rule giving effect to this suggestion in all appeals of Rs. 10,000 (appeal-ble amount in value).

This really amounts to a direction by the Privy Council which the Iigh Court are bound to carry out.

What then is the position with regard to this matter? The High 'ourt, I submit to the Council, are the best judges as regards the internal rrangements to be effected for the disposal of their business. They ound it absolutely necessary that the old practice, which had come down rom a very long time, must now be changed under the altered con-itions. Several members of this Council have emphasized the fact that he practice has continued for the last 40 years, as if that was a strong rgument why there should be no change. I submit that it is the trongest argument against the continuance of the practice, that it riginated in 1886—as the condition of things has altered considerably; nd we are face to face with the fact that there is considerable trouble ı finding adequate labour and in keeping it when you get it. The rices of materials have gone up considerably; and, as the learned udges pointed out, it would be a precarious state of things if they had ı rely on small printing presses, to which the vakils have necessarily ı resort, in getting paper-books printed for the disposal of their busi-ess. We all know what was the state of things in May last when there 'as a strike in the printing presses. Surely, there is a greater guarantee hat in the Government Press there would be a steady outturn of work ıan in the smaller presses. As has been pointed out by Mr. Watson-myth very correctly, the position is that, if this Council comes to the onclusion that this grant should not be voted, things will come to a

stand-still. The High Court, as I made it clear from the two letters, which I read out, entertain a very strong opinion that the present arrangement cannot be continued. It is not the case that the question was decided by them in an impulsive moment, they have in fact repeatedly considered the position. They have received representations from the vakils; they have held more than one meeting in order to consider these representations; and they have come to the conclusion that the time has come when there must be some radical modifications in the arrangement.

One member of the Council has suggested that there has been a difference of opinion among the Judges of the High Court. I know absolutely nothing about it, and I do not know how the member came to know anything about it. Even if there was a difference of opinion among the Judges of the High Court, that does not make the slightest difference in this respect; we have to consider the action of the High Court as a whole. It would be impossible for any corporate body to carry on business of any sort if we always required unanimity of opinion among the members. The same principle applies to the High Court. We have to see what the collective opinion of the High Court is; and there cannot be the slightest doubt that they entertain a very strong opinion on this subject. Their position shortly is that they cannot rely upon a proper preparation of the record if the arrangements which they have suggested are not carried out.

Then, as regards the delay, it has been suggested that the Government Press itself is guilty of much delays. One member stated that in the case of a second appeal in which a few pages were to be printed, it took the Government Press nearly two years to print them. Does anyone seriously believe that the Government Press could not promptly print a few pages of a second appeal. Surely, as the professional members of this Council well know, the delay even in second appeals is often caused by the death of parties or causes of a like nature. On the other hand, we have got to consider the opinion of the High Court and of the Privy Council, that at least the main cause of the delay in the hearing of first appeals is that paper-books are prepared in the offices of vakils.

Then, as regards the rates, considerable arguments have been addressed to this Council that the High Court is charging unnecessarily high rates for the preparation of the paper-books. I should like the members to consider the matter in this light. The High Court are not going to make any profit; nor are the Bengal Government making any profit out of the paper-book establishment. The litigants will be required to pay for the preparation of the paper-books and not the general public, as you will find that against Rs. 1,30,000 on the side of expenditure we have provided the same amount on the side of revenue. The High Court considered this question. They sent for estimates from a

number of printing houses; and I have got the quotations from some of them. They asked for more than what the High Court propose to charge. The Caledonian Press want Rs. 4, Messrs Lall Chand & Sons want Rs. 5 per page and even the lowest quotations, which is of the City Press, namely, Rs. 2-8, is still higher than what the High Court propose to charge. The High Court propose to charge Rs. 2-1, exclusive of any charge for supervision. So far as the litigants are concerned, they will really be profiting by the arrangements proposed by the High Court. The old arrangements broke down completely. I have got petitions filed by the vakils asking for a considerable increase in the rates allowed to them for the preparation of the paper-books. They point out, and rightly so, that the prices of materials have gone up in some cases more than 200 per cent., with the necessary result that they would have to charge much more than the old rates if they were to prepare paper-books properly and in time.

Mr. Fazl-ul Haq gave us some figures last evening as regards the different types of paper-books and the charges for preparing them. I understand his calculation is based on 14 annas per page——

Maulvi FAZL-UL HAQ: Re. 1-6 per page.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: But as I have shown, it does not seem possible for any printing press to do the work properly and in time at anything less than what the High Court charge. There is not the slightest reason to think, as has been suggested, that the High Court will gradually increase their charges, and I have already pointed out to the Council that, as regards the details of the establishment, the matter is still under consideration; and if the High Court find that a smaller establishment than they have started will be sufficient, they are quite prepared to reduce the rates. In fact, they have, since the department was first instituted, made substantial concessions, in view of the representations made by the vakils of the High Court. I will just refer to one or two of them.

As regards second appeals as the Council is aware, they were all printed at the office of the High Court, and the Court levied certain fees, as costs from the litigants. They have now waived printing in the case of these second appeals; they are quite satisfied to deal with them on typed paper-books.

Then, as regards first appeals, all the first appeals used to be printed under the old rules. Now, the High Court have gone so far as not to require printing in the case of first appeals below Rs. 5,000 in value, if they are not very bulky, not covering 40 or 50 pages. These may be type-copied. These are, I submit, substantial concessions; and I am prepared to state to the Council that the High Court would still be prepared to consider whether any further concessions are possible consistently with the efficient discharge of business.

Colonel A. J. PUCH: Will the Hon'ble Member please explain why the High Court only allows a rate of Re. 1-2 per page to the Attorneys for printing paper-books in appeals from the Original Side, when it charges Rs. 2-1 per page for printing paper-books on the Appellate Side?"

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I do not know anything about the Attorneys' charge for preparation of paper-books. But, as I have told the Council, the vakils themselves say that they cannot prepare paper-books at Re. 1-6 per page.

Then one member of this Council was under the impression yesterday that no instalments would be allowed under the new rules. This is not so. I understand that the High Court have permitted payments being made in instalments. I submit to the Council that this is really a very important matter with far-reaching consequences. The position is that the Privy Council requires the High Court to alter the practice and have paper-books prepared in the office of the High Court; and the learned Judges themselves are strongly of opinion that the paper-books should be prepared in the case of appeals above Rs. 10,000 in value in the office of the High Court. The Government of India have got administrative control over the High Court and the Government of India have issued orders.—

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I rise to a point of order. Is there no time-limit in the case of Government Members?

The PRESIDENT: Yes, there is.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: As I was stating, the Government of Bengal are bound to carry out the orders of the Government of India, and I submit that if this amendment is carried, it will lead to considerable complications.

Maulvi FAZL-UL HAQ: Have I the right of reply?

The PRESIDENT: I do not think so.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I move that the question be now put.

The motion that the question be now put was put and agreed to.

The original motion that the grant for paper-books be refused (No. 38), was then put.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM asked for a division; and a division was taken, with the following result:—

AYES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Afzal, Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinasn Chandra.

Sarma Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Basu, Rai Bahadur Nalinaksha.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Chaudhuri, Sir Ashutosh.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan,
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Faroqui, Mr. K. C. M,
Ghatak, Rai Sahib Nilmani.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Law, Raja Reshee Case.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray, Babu Bhabendra Chandra.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh.
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.

NOES.

Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr. C. H
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cochran, Mr. A.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
Donald, Mr. J.
Ghose, Mr D. C.
Gordon, Mr. A. D.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Loos, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Marr, Mr. A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Rhodes, Mr. C. W.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Watson-Smyth, Mr. R. M.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 71 and the Noes 35, the motion was carried.

The PRESIDENT: Before I call upon Dr. Haridhan Dutt to move his amendment I want to mention one point of procedure. It is this. It often happens that a member rises from his place and, without giving any indication whether he moves his motion or withdraws it, goes on making general observations. In such a case a difficulty arises. If a motion is withdrawn without a discussion, it need not be put to the House at all, but if anything is said which has the effect of moving the motion, it cannot be withdrawn without the leave of the House. I would, therefore, request members to make up their minds, and to state at the very outset whether they want to withdraw their motion or

whether they are moving it. Then there would be no difficulty in determining whether a motion for lease to withdraw should be put to the House or not.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur moved "that the demand under '24—Administration of Justice' be reduced by the amount provided in the Budget for the continuance of the post of Additional Legal Remembrancer and his staff, etc., by the omission from the Budget of the provision shown in the detailed account, '24 B—Law Officers,' under the item of Legal Remembrancer."

The post of the Additional Legal Remembrancer is a temporary one. It was created on 1st February, 1916, for one year, at Rs. 2,500 a month, to cope with a large number of political cases cropping up at that time in connection with political *détenus* and suspects.

As the Bengal Government have not the power to continue a temporary post for more than two years and as they have not the power to increase the pay of a temporary post for more than the sum of Rs. 2,500, naturally they went up to the Government of India and to the Secretary of State for, probably, permanent sanction of the post. As the matter now appears to stand, I conclude that both the Government of India and the Secretary of State have declined to make the post permanent, and only have allowed its continuance for a year more from 1st February, 1921, at Rs. 2,900, the date on which the last sanction elapsed—more, as I take it, as a matter of form and evidently as they were not convinced of the necessity of making it permanent.

In the meanwhile, as we all know, the release of the *détenus*, etc., on a general amnesty by His Majesty the King-Emperor took place. The altered policy of Government following that gracious order has led to the removal of any congestion of work, so much so, that this temporary special officer is now being employed for ordinary criminal cases, as admitted by the Member in charge of Judicial Department in reply to my question on 28th February, 1921. I find he is now being employed, evidently for want of any legitimate work for which he was originally appointed in 1916—in cases of the Excise Department in mufassal District Courts and some commercial cases. On the other hand, we find a sum of Rs. 1,20,000 is provided under the sub-head "Fees to Pleaders"—page 60 of the Budget—an item under which all the expenses incurred for these ordinary criminal cases should be met.

Then, Sir, from the information kindly supplied to me I find that the total number of criminal cases dealt with by the Legal Remembrancer was, in 1913-14, 2,067; in 1914-15, 2,163; in 1915-1916, 1,850; but since the creation of the post of Additional Legal Remembrancer the number fell down to, in 1916-17, 1,402; in 1917-18, 1,600; in 1918-19, 1,288, and in 1919-20, 1,294.

From another statement supplied to me, I find that the Additional Legal Remembrancer dealt with in 1916-17, 20 political cases and 21

non-political cases; in 1917-18, 41 political cases and 31 non-political cases; in 1918-19, 45 political cases and 31 non-political cases; in 1919-20, 12 political cases and 48 non-political cases and in 1920-21, 7 political cases and 67 non-political cases.

From a study of these figures it becomes quite clear that we have to maintain a costly post with its attendant establishment, etc., for no adequate work done. Certainly it cannot be contended that 7+67 or 74 cases a year will justify the expenditure of Rs 84,600 a year or nearly Rs. 60,000 if fees to pleaders be excluded. I have been supplied with a list which shows that we are asked to provide for—

	Rs.
Additional Legal Remembrancer	33,600
Establishment	12,500
Hill journey allowance	300
Charges for conducting law suits	3,500
Fees to pleaders	25,000
Postage and telephone charges	200
Books	2,000
Rents, rates and taxes ..	3,000
Office expenses and miscellaneous	2,000
Total ...	84,600

By dividing Rs. 84,600 by 74, we find that we have to spend on an average Rs. 1,143 per case.

After what I have pointed out I need hardly say anything more in favour of my motion.

I of course understand and appreciate the difficulty of the authorities who made the appointment. Possibly they did not foresee the effect of the sudden disappearance of the political cases under Royal Clemency and probably made the appointment on the understanding of a permanent basis. It is also not unnatural that the present incumbent accepted the temporary post on some such understanding. But circumstanced as we are, we are compelled by the financial exigencies to disregard all such delicate and personal considerations. We cannot afford in the present stringent condition of our finances to disregard any practical proposal for securing economy, and I believe my colleagues will agree with me that this is an item in the Budget to which the pruning knife may be safely applied.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: It is in the fitness of things that the motion has come from a doctor instead of from a lawyer or a

political leader. We are told that since the Reforms people are contented; then why this post? These two cannot go together. If it is true that the Reforms have brought peace to the country, then this post should be abolished.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: After what has fallen from the mover, I do not think I can add anything useful. So I just support the resolution.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: The mover of the resolution is wrong in thinking that this post was created only to deal with political cases. I will just state to the House the objects which the Government had in view in creating this appointment. The Additional Legal Remembrancer is to be in charge of political cases from start to finish, but no prosecutions are to be undertaken without the sanction of Government. He is to take charge of cases of organized crime and commercial fraud of an intricate nature made over to him by the Criminal Investigation Department, to take charge of such intricate Excise prosecutions as might be made over to him by the Collector of Calcutta or the Commissioner of Excise, Bengal, and to take charge of all cases made over to him by the district authorities, of an intricate nature. It is a mistake to suppose, and I suppose the mistake arises from the fact that the officer is called the Additional Legal Remembrancer, that so far as the duties of the office are concerned, they are the same as those of the Legal Remembrancer. The Legal Remembrancer's duties are principally of an administrative and advisory character. His opinion is sought by the different heads of departments in matters of law. He does not take charge of any prosecution whatever. He engages in proper cases vakils and barristers and lawyers generally, but he never takes charge of the conduct of any prosecution. He has got enough to do of his own in advising the Government and in generally looking after the administrative aspect of the legal business of the Government. The idea at the time the post of Additional Legal Remembrancer was created was that he should be an officer something like the Director of Public Prosecutions in England. The members of the House are aware that that is an important office and the Director of Public Prosecutions discharges very responsible duties. In this country the prosecuting agencies are mainly Police Inspectors and we also have Public Prosecutors who are pleaders. In ordinary police prosecutions they are quite competent to conduct the cases without difficulty, but in difficult and important cases, it must be said, without doing any injustice to police officers, that they are not able to deal with those cases properly. We have had sometimes cases of a very intricate and difficult nature which, from the very inception, required the supervision of a lawyer of considerable experience to guide the police in the investigation and prosecution. The ordinary machinery for conducting prosecutions was found insufficient

not only in political cases but also in other cases of importance such as cases of commercial fraud. There are sometimes excise prosecutions also of a very difficult nature. In these cases it was found absolutely necessary that there should be a lawyer to help the police in conducting the investigations and in preparing the case. The post was really created in the interests of economy. Some of the more important and difficult prosecutions used to cost a considerable amount of money to the Government in their initial stage, *e.g.*, the Gopalpur dacoity case. In that case a barrister had to be engaged from Calcutta during the stage of investigation in order to advise the prosecuting police, and his fees amounted in that case to more than Rs. 3,000. The case, as it happened, never went to the court at all. Then in the Alipur bomb case, one distinguished barrister of the High Court had to be engaged in order to advise Government from time to time. What do you think his fees amounted to? They amounted to Rs. 39,630. In addition to the barrister, solicitors had to be engaged in order to prepare his brief and to instruct him. Their fees amounted to Rs 36,170. I will give another case—the Barisal conspiracy case. A solicitor had to be engaged for the work in the lower courts and his fees amounted to Rs. 28,927. In the Alipur bomb case the bill of the solicitor amounted to Rs. 92,952. It was expected that, if we had an officer, an experienced barrister competent to take charge of these cases at the very inception, then a great saving of public money would be effected. Not only the interests of economy required that such an office should be created, but it was also thought advisable that in important and difficult cases the police should not be left without proper legal assistance. What would be the result without such assistance? There would be a number of futile prosecutions, which, in the interests of the public, cannot be good for the country. The post was created as an experimental measure, and it was found by experience that during the time it has been in existence there has been a considerable saving of money to the Government. That is why the post has been retained, but Government has not finally decided whether they will make it permanent. The matter is still under the consideration of Government. The post has been sanctioned for another year. If during the course of the year we find sufficient reasons for thinking that the post will no longer be required, we shall be prepared, as I said in answer to a question put by Mr. Dutt, to drop the appointment. But at present it would not be advisable to abolish the post.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I have heard what has fallen from the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim and I do not find any justification for withdrawing my motion.

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): May I supplement the remarks of

the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim by a few words in support of an arrangement which tends to ensure the efficient conduct of public prosecutions and, more particularly, prosecutions instituted at the instance of the Police. As Sir Abd-ur-Rahim has stated, the fallacy underlying the speech of the mover is that of thinking that this appointment was created solely for the supervision of political cases. His argument is that, since political cases have for the moment disappeared, the appointment should disappear along with them. The appointment, however, is justified by wider considerations. It is true that certain defects were emphasized a few years ago in a few political cases which attracted much attention, but those defects existed quite independently of any particular cases. In the absence of legal advice and superintendence in important cases investigated by police officers, who, naturally, are not posted in all the technicalities of the law, it was found, and will be found, that sometimes cases are instituted when they should not be instituted, and at other times, in the institution of cases, technical defects and omissions are made at the earlier stages, as a result of which the proceedings eventually break down and justice is frustrated It is that defect which we have been trying to remedy.

Another error, into which the mover fell, was in giving the Council to understand that, as the Government of India had only sanctioned this appointment temporarily, they were not convinced of the necessity of this post. But the reason for this temporary sanction was far otherwise. For some time past, the Government of India, who were as much impressed as we with the flaws in our arrangements by which our cases so often failed on technical points, have been urging us to create a post on a far wider scale than this, a post more akin to that of the Director of Public Prosecutions at home. The post of the Director of Public Prosecutions in England is a very important one. It is held by distinguished lawyers who have very extensive and wide powers. The Director has an expensive establishment under him, and he has authority to interfere directly in prosecutions of specified kinds. The Government of India have been urging us for some time past to create an expensive and far-reaching appointment of this kind. We, on the other hand, have been rather diffident as to whether an arrangement which may work successfully in a small country like England, where means of communication are excellent, would work equally well in a vast province like Bengal, where it is impossible to maintain the personal touch which is feasible in England. That is why the Government of India maintained this appointment on a temporary basis only.

The motion being put, a division was taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Afzal, Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.

Ali, Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Faroqui, Mr. K. C. M,
Chatak, Rai Sahib Nilmani.
Chose, Mr D. C.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Haq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rahque Uddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray, Babu Bhabendra Chandra.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Sheknareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh.
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.

NOES.

Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L
Bompas, Mr C. H.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cohen. Mr. D. J.
Das, Mr. S. R.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Gordon, Mr. A. D.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Marr, Mr A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Morgan, Mr. C.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 62 and Noes 33, the motion was carried.

The PRESIDENT called on Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Jubbar Pahlowan to move his amendment, but, as he was absent, the motion was deemed to have been withdrawn.

It was as follows: "That the demand for hill and Dacca allowances and hill journey charges in account No. 24 B be refused."

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I am afraid there is some mistake in the wording of my motion, as account No. 24 B does not relate to Dacca allowances.

The PRESIDENT: Permission is given to you to amend your motion.

The motion was then moved in the following form: "That the demand for hill allowances and hill journey charges in account No. 24 B be refused."

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: It appears from the Civil Estimates that the amount is very small--the amount is Rs. 600. I have just now been told by the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr that the appointment of the Additional Legal Remembrancer will be dispensed with from the 1st April next, and so the allotment of Rs. 600 will be reduced to only Rs. 300 for the Legal Remembrancer, Mr. Gupta. So I move that this amount of Rs. 300 be not allotted. The Judges of the High Court do not go to the hills and still they carry on their work satisfactorily, and I don't think it is necessary for the Legal Remembrancer to go to the hills.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: In connection with this amendment I would like to explain our general position, which is equally relevant to the amendments which were withdrawn yesterday after having raised something like a storm in a tea-cup, and to other amendments of a like nature which appear in the subsequent portions of the agenda, to the extent that they have a bearing on the whole question of the exodus to the hills. Now I do not wish to recapitulate the arguments which I only recently detailed at length on the general question, and would start from the position where I left it, though I must advert to the vehement attack made in connection with a previous amendment by Babu Surendra Nath Mullick, that we are purposely flouting the Council by the retention of provisions of this kind. He cries "What is the use of discussion if this expenditure still goes on." The explanation is surely simple: our last discussion took place in February, while the Budget was prepared in December on the old lines. The actual expenditure under this head would, of course, be affected by any change in the procedure relating to the exodus to the hills which may be adopted by Government as a consequence of that debate.

Well, as I explained the other day, and was admitted yesterday by Babu Surendra Nath Ray, we start from the position that the Governor must go to the hills, although the Secretariat, as such, will not. But the Governor must have a free hand in keeping in touch with his Government, which will mean that in the course of the hot weather Members, Ministers, Secretaries and some of the Heads of Departments will, on occasion, go to the hills. We propose that the stay of Government will be for a shorter period than has hitherto been the case, while the office, as such, will not move, but the exact duration of such visits cannot be defined now. In so far as these officers do go to the hills it may be necessary that, for the period of their stay, a small clerical staff, such as personal shorthand writers and a few clerks to look after the receipt and despatch of letters, etc., should go too, while in the case of the Chief Secretary, it will be necessary that he should have a clerk or two to get out orders which may be of absolute urgency. For these reasons the

small provisions which appear in connection with different departments in respect of expenditure on clerical establishments going to the hills will remain, though in a minor degree. Until we have had one year's experience of the working of the system in this new form it is very difficult to fix an exact figure, and, as I have said, the figures in the Budget are based on the old system which is all we had before us when we prepared the Budget. But the provisions will not be worked up to, and I put it to the Council that, rather than excise them altogether, it is simpler to reduce them in conformity with the discussion of February and the assurance which was then given by Government. On a rough estimate I should imagine that we might safely be able to reduce the different provisions for Heads of Departments by about two-thirds. If the member who moved this resolution cares to accept a compromise on these lines, no objection will be raised by Government. I do not intend to repeat these arguments in connection with each of the other similar motions: the argument is general, and my proposal to the Council is that they should be content to reduce these different provisions by two-thirds.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I accept the compromise.

The original motion was then amended as follows: "That the demand for hill allowances and hill journey charges in account No. 24 B be reduced by two-thirds."

The amended motion was then put and agreed to.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY moved "that the demand for Rs 24,000 for amalgamating the offices of the Administrator-General and Official Trustee be refused."

With reference to this resolution I think I ought to state at the outset that I had a talk with the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim, and he has given me the assurance that, before any portion of this amount is granted—that was my suggestion also—he would appoint a committee to examine the working of the offices of the Administrator-General and Official Trustee to see what organisation is necessary, what appointments are necessary and he also promised to me—at least so far as I understood him——

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: What I said was that the matter would be examined by the Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee and not by a particular Committee to be appointed for this purpose.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: By the same Committee which is now sitting, consisting of Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur, Mr. McAlpin and Mr. S. N. Roy?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I do not know the names of the members, but the name of the Committee is the Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: If that Committee examines these two offices, and then reports that this amount is necessary for the amalgamation of offices of the Administrator-General and Official Trustee, I have no objection to the grant.

The PRESIDENT: I cannot allow you to attach any conditions. You will either have to withdraw your motion or go on with it.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: It is not merely for amalgamating these two offices, but for considering the question of the organisation and the salary of some of the ministerial officers and some other appointments that the Committee has been appointed. The question has not been finally decided, and it will be investigated by the Salaries Committee, and that is the assurance that I can give the hon'ble member.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: On the assurance given by the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim I withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED moved "that the demand for Rs. 1,33,000 for addition to the cadre of the Provincial Judicial Service be refused."

It is an ordinary principle of economy that, when a man is hard up, he does not indulge in the luxury of employing more servants than he can afford. We have been confronted with a deficit of more than Rs. 2 crores and a half, and the proposal is that we are going to spend Rs. 1,30,000 for employing more judicial officers for dispensing justice. Is it not better to defer the employment of more judicial officers at a time when we are confronted with a deficit? We should consider how to reduce our expenditure and put our house in order. We are to consider how to find ways and means, by which we can meet the deficit. Therefore my proposal is that this is not the time when we are to spend Rs. 1,33,000 for employing more judicial officers. I beg to submit that the number of officers we have already got for dispensing justice is sufficient for the time being, and litigation has not increased to such an extent all over Bengal as to necessitate the employment of more officers than there are at the present moment. We can do without them for one or two years more, when our income will be sufficient to meet the expenditure. I think that the officers, who are already employed, if they do their work efficiently, if they do not give more postponements, if they do not strike off cases on flimsy grounds, and if the officers are wholly employed in their business as they ought to be, then they would be quite sufficient to cope with the judicial work which they have in their hands. Therefore my motion before the House is that this is not the time when we are to spend Rs. 1,33,000, especially when we are confronted with a deficit. Therefore I move this motion and I hope the House will accept it.

The PRESIDENT: Item No. 49, which stands next, is identical with the motion that has just been moved. I therefore call upon Shah Syed Emdadul Haq to move the amendment standing in his name.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ delivered his speech in Bengali in support of his motion, which was as follows:—"That the demand for Rs. 1,33,000 for the addition to the cadre of the Provincial Judicial Service be reduced to Rs. 50,000."

Mr. S. R. DAS: About half an hour ago—perhaps a little earlier—I received a written communication from 35 members of this Council, which has been circulated to other members, I believe, stating that they had made up their minds to vote solemnly in favour of the motion without giving the slightest opportunity to those who may be against that motion to express their views on the subject. If work is to be done in this Council in that manner, then it is impossible for us to justify our existence. It is extremely surprising that a motion like this should be supported by 35 members, all of whom have made up their minds to vote solemnly in favour of it, whether they have reasons for this motion or not. They are not even prepared to remain inside the Council Chamber to hear the other speakers, but they are prepared to vote for it. I should have thought that this was a subject on which there could be no difference of opinion. We all know that in the Judicial Service Subordinate Judges and Munsifs have extremely hard work. At least from the little experience I have got of them I have found them working from 10 o'clock to 7 in the evening, and sometimes later, and surely a grant for the purpose of relieving them—and after all they are our own countrymen—and adding to their cadre, should, I think be welcomed by all the members of this Council.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I have heard Mr. S. R. Das on the subject of the notice that has been circulated to some of us—I believe to the non-official members. I also received a copy of that notice just before I entered the Council. But I must say this: although I do not bind myself to vote according to the direction contained in that notice, it is an outcome of the discussion of Mr. Das himself at an informal meeting held the other day, where I insisted that not only a few non-official members, but all the other members should be invited, and those who cared to come should be permitted to come and discuss which items they should support and which items they should oppose. Therefore, I think I must say that, although I do not associate myself with the notice that has been circulated, I consider it fair to mention that it was one of the suggestions of Mr. S. R. Das.

Now, I desire to make one or two observations on the merits of this motion. I find that this motion is made with a view to cutting out the provision of Rs. 1,33,000. The facts which have been placed before the House, I regret to say, do not convince me that we would not be justified in omitting this item altogether. What are the facts? I think that

it is a great pity that the House seems to be divided, as Jumna and Ganga are divided near Allahabad. Why should it be so? The Budget is placed in our hands for eight days only. We are not omniscient that we should know all the details of it. I understand that there are 68 Munsifs now toiling and drudging as officiating in the Judicial Service, and am I to understand that these men shall to the end of their life toil as officiating Munsifs or officiating Subordinate Judges without being confirmed and without being allowed to enjoy the graded pay and the leave allowance which all other Munsifs and Subordinate Judges are entitled to enjoy?

It was found after a careful enquiry by Government that the people do not get speedy justice, that justice is delayed, that cases are indefinitely delayed, and they found that additional hands were required in order to expedite the administration of justice. In this matter these officers are not imported from England but our own countrymen, and they have been toiling for over four years without being confirmed. Am I to understand that my friends, the movers of the resolutions, do seriously think that these officers should be thrown out of their appointments altogether, and the administration of justice still further delayed? I do not think so. I quite understand that there is a craze for economy—it is natural—and I am one of those who are bent upon cutting down expenses here and there in order to improve our depleted balance. We are struggling as it were—a drowning man catches at a straw—and in the present state of our finances we must try to effect some reduction in our expenditure under certain items. I do not think that the facts that have been disclosed will warrant us in making any reduction in this item. It will be directly against the interests of the people to cut down any amount from this head, and I am sure the movers will consider the question seriously before they press their motions for the acceptance of the Council.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: The only argument that has been brought forward by the Hon'ble Member in charge is that the number of cases have really so increased that an additional staff of Munsifs and Subordinate Judges is necessary for the dispensation of justice. He has said that the High Court wanted a large number of Munsifs and Subordinate Judges, but that he cut down the demand by half. Sir, I should like to point out some facts before this Council, which will show that the number of cases is not likely to increase during the coming year. First, Sir, a movement has been set on foot in this province for referring cases to non-official arbitration boards and not to judicial courts. I do think that this movement is bound to have some effect on the number of cases, at any rate. Then, Sir, it is perhaps not unknown to some members of this Council that the Union Boards, that have been established in some parts of the country, are going to be empowered to try petty cases and petty

money suits to the value of Rs. 50 and less. This will take away a large number of cases from the courts of Munsifs. From a reference to the Report of the Administration of Civil Justice in the presidency of Bengal for 1919, I find that 45·5 per cent. of the suits instituted for money or moveable property were for sums of less than Rs. 50. If these are taken away, I am sure, Sir, that the number of cases will not go on increasing, as has been suggested by the Hon'ble Member. Then, Sir, from a reference to the Civil List, which was recently handed over to us, I find from the list of Subordinate Judges that two posts are remaining vacant for a long time. From the list of Munsifs we find that there are 20 posts remaining vacant, four in the first grade, two in the third grade and 14 in the fourth grade. I submit, Sir, that, if really cases have gone up, as has been suggested, what is the use of keeping these 22 posts vacant for such a long time? I submit that these 22 posts should be filled up at once before this Council is asked to vote for 20 new posts. As has been pointed out by the gentleman who moved this amendment, our financial position is very difficult, and we should think twice before we can vote for some extra posts, and no substantial case has been made out for this increase. It is the quality of work, that requires improvement and not the quantity of officers. During the last year, a large increase of pay was given to these officers and we would like them to show that they are doing good work and a larger outturn of work before we sanction these additional appointments. With these words, I beg to support the motion.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I am surprised at this motion. Whether there should be five Subordinate Judges and 20 Munsifs is a question for the High Court and the Judicial Department to decide. It is an undoubted fact that the Munsifs and Subordinate Judges are hard-worked; so hard-worked that their lot is pitiable. To relieve them a little five Subordinate Judges and 20 Munsifs have been appointed, but what grounds are there to turn these men out? It is said that a certain number of pleaders only will be appointed. We do not want any pleaders, but we are only concerned with the convenience of the public and of these judicial officers, who are overworked. It has also been suggested that the village committees will try and decide some petty cases, but I know that 75 per cent. of the people do not want these village committees to exercise judicial powers, where pleaders will not be allowed to appear under the law. Now, Sir, we have come up with motions against the best interests of the country, against the educated community, against pleaders and against the Subordinate Judges and Munsifs. What is this? It is worse than anarchy. I say this motion cannot be supported on any ground whatsoever. I know of a fact; an execution proceeding of mine has been awaiting decision for some months, because the Munsif has no time to attend to it. This is the experience of everybody. I ask those gentlemen who have brought forward these motions whether it is a fact or not. The people generally do not realize the pitiable condition of the

Munsifs, and how their *sheristas* are overflooded with cases. We want to save money, but money is required for good government, and, if good government can be secured, money does not matter in the least.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: The only argument put forward by the learned gentlemen who proposed these amendments is economy, and on this ground they urge the House to refuse the motion for the grant of this amount. I do not understand what they mean. The other day, when the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan moved for a grant for the Forest Department, we opposed it on the ground that, if the grant was sanctioned, officers would be imported from England to increase the cadre of the Imperial Forest Service and our own countrymen would not be benefited. Now, when the government requires a grant for the appointment of our countrymen, are we to oppose them? We should not sacrifice efficiency for the sake of economy. Everyone, who is in charge of some responsible work, knows that our first duty is to see that efficiency is maintained and then to think of economy later. Some days ago we heard in this Council a complaint that there are no openings for the young men of our country, and that they are going astray for want of proper openings. I do not think that it is a consistent and justifiable policy to refuse a grant, which aims at providing our young men with appointments. I, therefore, appeal to my friends to withdraw their amendments.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I must express my surprise at the amendment that has been just moved before the House. The Munsifs and Subordinate Judges are very deserving persons; they are extremely hardworked, and we cannot give them leave, when they need it, because the service is undermanned. I will give you some startling figures; no less than 68 Munsifs have been officiating from time to time since 1914. In 1914, six temporary Munsifs were wanted; in 1913 another three more were demanded by the High Court; six Munsifs were wanted in connection with the settlement proceedings and 21 Munsifs are wanted for leave reserve. Many Munsifs do not get leave when they want it, with the result that many of them break down in health. There is a clear necessity for increasing the cadre of Munsifs and Subordinate Judges by the creation of some additional posts. The High Court, who ought to know much more about these things than any member of this Council, have asked for 40 Munsifs and five Subordinate Judges. We are going to provide for 20 Munsifs and three Subordinate Judges. If that is not enough, we shall have to appoint more men next year. I submit that the ground of economy should not stand in the way of carrying out these necessary administrative measures, and I would protest against cutting down a demand of this nature, as it is likely to impair the efficiency of administration of justice. If any member of this Council moves amendments of this nature without seeking information he alone is responsible. One member said that litigation is not increasing. He is quite wrong.

There has been a considerable increase in litigation, and it is absolutely necessary that these additional Munsifs and Subordinate Judges should be appointed.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I want to ask a question of the Hon'ble Member in charge, viz., whether these appointments are to be permanent appointments or only temporary appointments.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: These are permanent appointments.

The following amendment proposed by Maulvi Yakuinuddin Ahmed was then put to the vote and lost: "That the demand for Rs. 1,33,000 for addition to the cadre of the Provincial Judicial Service be refused."

The following amendment of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was then put to the vote and lost: "That the demand for Rs. 1,33,000 for the addition to the cadre of the Provincial Judicial Service be reduced to Rs. 50,000."

The PRESIDENT: The original motion has been amended by the vote of the House. I now put to the House that the demand for expenditure under the head "24—Administration of Justice." as amended by the Council, be granted.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM moved "that a sum of Rs. 40,05,000 be granted for expenditure under head '25—Jails and Convict Settlements."

In this connection there has been a certain increase in expenditure owing to the revision of pay of the officers. So far as the motion is concerned there is no objection to sanctioning the demand for any of these items of expenditure.

As regards the hill and Dacca allowances, I do not think I should take up the time of the Council in saying anything before I hear what the movers of the amendments have got to say. The considerations in this connection will be the same as with respect to other similar items.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: With reference to this item may I ask the Member in charge whether this grant will be so spent in course of the year as to enable the Government to carry out the improvements recommended in the recently published Report of the Jails Commission.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: No, no, not at all. It is simply the expenditure according to the present arrangement, and there is no provision for any improvement recommended by the Jails Committee. Those recommendations, I may tell the Council, if they are to be carried out, will cost very considerable sums of money.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: After the assurance given by the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler that the hill and Dacca allowances will be reduced by two-thirds I do not wish to move my amendment. I beg leave to withdraw it.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—
" That the demand for hill and Dacca allowances and hill journey charges in account No. 25 be refused."

The original motion of the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim was then put and agreed to.

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler) moved " that the demand of Rs. 1,75,00,700 be voted by this Council as a grant for expenditure under the head ' Police ' for the year 1921-22." As regards the minor entry of refunds, the explanation in connection with the police is similar to that which has already been given relating to other departments.

In connection with the general question of the increase in police expenditure I spoke only the other day, and I trust it will not now be necessary to repeat in detail the line of argument which I then took. I admitted that the increase in expenditure on the police was regrettably large, but I endeavoured to show that the maintenance of a police force was an unavoidable necessity in every civilised country at the present day. Further, that, judged by the test both of theory and of experience, the strength of the police force in Bengal was not excessive. In fact it was otherwise while judged by the rates now current in the market for labour of the description which we recruit for the different grades of the police, the rates of pay which we give to our police officers at the present time were not excessive. Therefore this increase in expenditure, much as we would like to avoid it, is unfortunately, in a great measure, inevitable I also tried to explain to the Council that in the nature of things, looking at the lines upon which the province was developing, it was inevitable that a high proportion of its revenues would have to be devoted to the maintenance of the police in an efficient state, partly by reason of the fact that enough money has not been devoted to the department in the past, and partly because conditions are altering so rapidly in various ways, rendering additions to the police imperative. More particularly is that true in the large industrial areas which are now springing up all round.

With regard to this point of the regrettable necessity of heavy expenditure on the police, I would like to give the Council some figures which I did not quote the other day, with the view of showing that far from it being the case that this Government votes the bulk of its revenues to the police, leaving the rest of the administration to scrambl for the balance, we habitually do not allot to the police anything lik

the expenditure which we are told by the departmental heads is necessary for the department, and should be allotted if the force is to be maintained in a satisfactory state.

Now taking one head—improvement of district police buildings—which, judging from the number of amendments, is likely to come in for considerable criticism in this Council—at the moment we have in the Secretariat schemes administratively approved, schemes that have been sent up by responsible officers and examined and admitted by Government, amounting to some Rs. 80,00,000; compare that with the provision we are making for them. In connection with the Budget for next year, the Inspector-General, who knows that it is useless to ask for everything, wished us to allot Rs. 6,13,000, but we propose to give him Rs. 2,00,000 only. We are, therefore, cutting him down in a very arbitrary way. Turning to personnel, we have at the present moment schemes, either approved or under examination by Government, for alterations and changes connected with the personnel of the district force, which will cost us Rs. 11,97,000. Against that, in this present Budget, we are proposing to make a provision of Rs. 5,83,000 only. In regard to the Calcutta police, I referred the other day to the most unsatisfactory state of buildings now occupied by them. I mentioned that owing to a lack of foresight in the past many unsatisfactory buildings were hired, and at the present moment we have to pay an annual rent bill of over Rs. 3,00,000. The position is eminently unsatisfactory. We cannot get long leases of these buildings, and when the old leases fall in, our rents are raised. It would be wise economy, even at a considerable cost, to acquire these buildings rather than keep them on this unsatisfactory system of renting. But on a rough estimate we made the other day, the cost of acquisition of the buildings now occupied by the Calcutta police worked out to the very heavy total of over a crore. We have at the moment urgent schemes pending for Rs. 16,15,000, while we are proposing in connection with our present Budget to give, as a new scheme, only the one provision for the acquisition of land for married sergeants' quarters. As regards personnel, we have schemes relating to the Calcutta police, which total Rs. 4,39,000, though in the present Budget we are proposing to give only Rs. 2,17,000. I trust, therefore, that it will be clear that, far from thrusting money into the hands of the departmental heads, we are depriving them of a large proportion of the sum which they tell us they really require.

There is another point. There seems to be an impression, which has been voiced in some quarters, that we are simply going on increasing and increasing our expenditure on the police, without ever endeavouring to effect any reductions. May I give some figures showing what we have done, in connection with the Intelligence Branch, thanks to the improved conditions which prevail in the political world. In 1919 our temporary force in the Intelligence Branch, that is, the branch on which we rely for the supervision of these matters, was costing us Rs. 3,78,000.

But last year, owing to improved conditions, it seemed possible to effect a saving, and we spent only Rs. 2,55,000. This year we hope only to spend Rs. 1,65,000, thus saving nearly another lakh, although, to be on the safe side, we are asking for a provision of Rs. 2,74,000. These are substantial economies, and show that we endeavour to curtail expenditure on the police whenever we see an opportunity of doing so.

So much for the general question. I will now only refer very briefly to the new schemes which will be found on page 59 of this grey-covered book in respect of which amendments have not been moved. It is only fair that we should let the Council know what the general nature of each is.

The first item is connected with the police force in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. This is a non-voted item, but this force is being thoroughly reorganised in accordance with the general action that is being taken to bring the administration of this district up to a higher level.

The second entry is for raising the rate of house-rent for the sergeants of the Calcutta police. These sergeants now get an allowance of Rs. 50 per month, when they are not given free quarters. This is entirely inadequate, and there have been cases in which men are actually paying out of their own pockets, though nominally entitled to free accommodation. We propose to raise the rate to Rs. 90 a month.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Is this for married or unmarried sergeants?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: Both.

Then we come to the supply of furniture, etc., to the new Calcutta police hospital. This is for the furniture in the new building which is rising at the southern end of Pora Bazar, and which must obviously be furnished.

The next three items are too small to deserve notice, and the next one is the subject of an amendment.

The additional police force for the Public Vehicles Department is for the better control of Calcutta traffic, about which we are likely to hear a good deal in a short time, when the report of Mr. Beadel's committee is received.

The next is a small item—purchase of cots for the Calcutta police. We could not provide as many as Mr. Clarke wanted, and had to cut this item down.

The next four items are all concerned with various resolutions.

The next item is machines on account of the river police—Rs. 35,000. This is the direct outcome of the closure of the Government dockyard by the Government of India, a measure which has put the provincial Government to considerable inconvenience, as we used to be able to get our repair work done there. Now we shall not be able to do so, and as we have a number of launches, we are putting up a small workshop

at Narayanganj in order to save the expense and delay involved in sending these boats down to Calcutta. The cost of sending these boats down would, I am told, be almost equivalent to the money spent on this machinery.

The revision of boat establishments for circle inspectors, etc., is due to the economic conditions of the present day, under which boats cannot be got at the rates previously sanctioned, and we know quite well what happens when we underpay our men. We want to be able to pay the fair market rate of the present day.

The launch *Juliet* is the subject of an amendment.

The last item is similar to the first, viz., in respect of the police establishments in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

I will not detain the Council longer, except, with reference to the various amendments that are about to be moved, to ask the Council to regard the police not so much as an enemy of mankind that must be starved at all costs, but as an integral part of the provincial machinery, which it is eminently to the interests of the members of this Council, as much as to the interests of Government to maintain in an efficient state.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: May I speak a word? Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Jubbar Pahlowan is absent. I wish to move the resolution which stands in his name, if I can have the permission of the House to do so.

The PRESIDENT: I would like to ascertain the pleasure of the House in this matter. Is it the pleasure of this House that Babu Annada Charan Dutta should be allowed to move this motion in the absence of Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Jubbar Pahlowan?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I do not mind.

(Several other members nodded agreement.)

The PRESIDENT: Very well, you may move this motion.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: The motion that I have been kindly permitted to move runs thus: "That the demand for Rs. 2,57,000 for sergeants in the Calcutta Police be reduced to Rs. 2,07,000, or, in other words, a reduction of Rs. 50,000 is only being moved."

I shall be very short in pressing this motion to the acceptance of this honourable House. It will appear from page 74 of the White Book, the Civil Estimates, under the detailed accounts No. 26A, that in 1919-20, the Budget amount under this head was Rs. 1,23,330; that of 1920-21, Rs. 2,07,300, though the revised estimate shows Rs. 2,16,000; and this year we have all on a sudden the figure raised to Rs. 2,57,000, that is practically by Rs. 50,000. Indeed, the only reason which I can gather from page 33 of the other book is that this increase

is due mainly to the revision of the pay of the sergeants; of course, in a very general way, constables, head constables, etc., etc. But it is very difficult to find out from these scanty details given in these two books whether, as a matter of fact, this Rs. 50,000 is meant only for an increase of pay of the sergeants or not, or whether there would be any increase in the number of sergeants. So far as I have been able to gather, the whole amount will not be necessary only for the revision of pay of these sergeants, and, if so, there is hardly any necessity for increasing the pay of these sergeants, so far as Calcutta is concerned. We are now, if I can say so, after the war in peace times. If, during the war a certain number of sergeants could do the work, is there any necessity in these times that their number should be increased? Well, if this is so, I think the House should not grant this amount of Rs. 50,000.

Then, again, if it is only due to some increase of pay granted to these sergeants, I, for myself, do not know on what scale that has been fixed, whether there also the question of practical non-voted items comes in, but, as it has been shown as a voted one, and a motion allowed, I for myself, cannot see why so much increase should be granted, and, if any increase should be granted at all, it should be done within the amount of Rs. 2,07,000, which still remains after deducting Rs. 50,000.

With these few words, I beg to commend this motion for the acceptance of this House.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I shall try to give the hon'ble members the information he wants as shortly as possible. The European sergeants in the Calcutta police are a small body of some 152 men. They are an essential part of the police administration in a large city of this kind, and in connection with *goondaism*, to which I referred briefly the other day, one of the requests recently put before me by the Marwari Association was that we should have more European sergeants in Burra Bazar. This very small force in 1919 was paid at the rate of Rs. 125, rising to Rs. 175. That rate was fixed in 1919 and has since been found to be hopelessly insufficient. As the Council is doubtless aware, the pay of the British soldier has been considerably improved during and since the war, and we cannot, on this pay, attract the class of man we want, men of a steady sober type, preferably married men, who have given up the army, and are willing to settle down in India and do good work in the Police Department. That type cannot be procured on the present rate of pay, and in August last year, Mr. Clarke wrote and informed us that he had had to discharge 23 men for unsatisfactory work, while he had 23 vacancies which he could not fill. For this reason, in October last, we raised the pay from Rs. 125 rising to Rs. 175, to Rs. 150 rising to Rs. 200, and it is on account of that enhancement of pay, that there is this extra provision in the Budget.

The men are actually being paid at this rate now, and if this provision disappears, we shall have to put them back to the old rate of pay, with what consequences the Council may well imagine. As a matter of fact, within the last fortnight, we have had a further request from the Commissioner of Police asking us to put the pay up still higher, as he is finding it very difficult, even at this rate, to get the men he wants.

I urge therefore, that the provision is thoroughly justified and should stand.

The motion was put to the Council and lost.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: With reference to this resolution, there is another motion in the name of Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur. It would be better if you could see your way to ask him to move his resolution first.

The PRESIDENT: Nos. 56, 57 and 58 are all three alike. I call upon Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur to move No. 58.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I would have been in a better position if my friend, Babu Surendra Nath Ray, had moved his motion with his usual eloquence and mastery of facts. However, as he has asked that this task should devolve upon me, I bear him no grudge.

At the outset I desire to say that I have no antipathy, against the Calcutta Police service as a whole. As a law-abiding citizen and one who has some stake in the country, I am naturally anxious that the police force should be maintained at its proper strength to ensure the security of the life and property of the people. Sir Henry Wheeler, on the last occasion, if I remember him aright, said that this was a subject upon which boys should be encouraged to write a thesis, because it was so much talked, and written about. What is the reason for people constantly opposing any proposal for increased expenditure on the police for its improvement? In the first place, I see that the people are divorced from the Government. Looking at the figures, you will find that three years ago, or rather two years ago—we are in the second year now—the cost of the police administration of the whole province was Rs. 1,43,00,000. This year's estimates are a little over Rs. 1,90,00,000, roughly speaking, this is an increase of about Rs. 50,00,000 within three years, and naturally, people are inquisitive and are rather prone to criticise this inordinate increase of expenditure, and, unless they are satisfied and taken into the confidence of Government, I am afraid this sort of criticism will go on from year to year.

Well, turning to my motion, I wish to draw attention to some particular facts. The total expenditure proposed on account of the presidency police for 1921-22 is Rs. 36,37,000, of which only Rs. 96,000 is indicated as non-voted. For the year 1919-20 the figure is fixed at

Rs. 23,26,000. A tremendous stride seems to have been taken in the matter of the expenditure on the presidency police in the space of three years, a stride from Rs. 23,00,000 to Rs. 36,00,000, or an advance of Rs. 13,00,000!

Coming to further facts, I find that a provision of Rs. 1,50,000 is made in the Budget, and a demand is made for the revision of the higher subordinate executive staff of the Calcutta police. No explanation is given in the Budget of what this higher subordinate executive staff means. Some facts, however, may be gleaned from the Police Administration Report of the town of Calcutta and its suburbs for the year 1919. The total numerical strength of the executive staff of the Calcutta police is indicated as follows:—

Commissioner	1
Deputy Commissioners	6
Assistant Commissioners	10
Inspectors	37
Sub-Inspectors	117

Which of these officers may be designated as belonging to the higher subordinate executive staff? Do all the officers under the Commissioner of Police fall under this category? According to the latest information I have obtained, I am informed that the subordinate higher executive is included in these two items, 37 inspectors and 117 sub-inspectors, total 154 men. Assuming that the higher subordinate executive staff consists of 160 men, to provide Rs. 1,50,000 for the revision of their pay and prospects, is to allow an increase of about Rs. 1,000 per head, or perhaps a little less. In other words, an increment of about Rs. 80 to Rs. 85 per month is allowed for each of these officers. I do not know whether this is a recurring expenditure, or whether this is an increase of pay or not, but at the same time, I may say, that, while I do not grudge a reasonable increment to these officers—it may improve the *morale* of the service—I may say that, if the public were taken into confidence, they would urge the strengthening of the lower rungs of the ladder more than the strengthening, the fattening of the higher rungs. As a citizen of Calcutta I may inform the Government that the city of Calcutta is not as well policed as it ought to be, and what is the reason? The Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler will remember, I believe, that I was one of those who were associated,—in fact I was asked to accompany a number of leading residents and citzens of Calcutta belonging both to Marwari and Bengali communities,—to represent to Government the insecurity of life and property due to the inadequacy of the staff of constables in this city. In our interview with the Commissioner of Police (Mr. Roddis, I believe) I was told that the total shortage of constables was 300 to 400, and now, almost every day of my life I am approached by my friends and neighbours who ask me to represent

to Government that there is practically no police to protect them if there is any dacoity or organised crime in the northern part of the city.

Now, it will be clear from my observations that I am not opposed to the police; I am their friend, in that I want the force strengthened. What steps have been taken to strengthen the lower rungs of the ladder? So far as I know, no attempt has been made to strengthen the bottom, all the strengthening is at the top! with the result that no one living in the north of Dharamtala can do so in peace and security. I think, therefore that, if the Government had taken the people into their confidence they would have received good advice, and not unending carping criticisms; they would have got real co-operation from the people. I speak on behalf of the people; I am afraid that in this respect the Government have failed, and that is why there is opposition in and out of season.

Sir Henry Wheeler has placed before the House some estimates prepared by the departmental heads of the police. I regret with him that there was a want of far-sightedness on the part of the executive, either Government or the police; I quite agree that house rent has increased to such an extent that the provision of house rent has had to be increased accordingly, and Government has also been put to considerable trouble in securing leases of premises for the location of their thanas. As regards the acquisition of buildings and lands for police purposes, I am sure there would be no difficulty if Government had taken the public into confidence. As soon as owners come to know that the land or buildings are required for police purposes, prices go up at once. I know that the demand of the executive is very much exaggerated. I have not examined the figures, nor the estimates or plans myself, but from my experience as a municipal commissioner, I may say that when our officers, highly paid officers, prepare plans they prepare them on a considerably more expensive scale than if they had to prepare them for their own houses and pay for them out of their own pockets. If they want the public to build houses for them, they want palaces, and therefore, generally speaking, these amounts are susceptible of considerable improvement and reduction. If the Government will associate themselves with the people, they will find that a considerable reduction will be affected in the police charges without impairing efficiency in any way.

With regard to this item, I think it is a recurring charge; it ought not to be allowed, but it can be examined by the Standing Committee appointed by the Council, and I am sure we will not be unreasonable and will grant the necessary sum. The Standing Committee has sufficient authority to restore such sum as may be deemed necessary in consultation with the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I should like to speak, if at all, after I hear the reply of the Government Member, because I have nothing to add to the speech of the Rai Bahadur.

The PRESIDENT: I think you must speak before the Government Member has spoken by way of reply.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: Of course, with due deference to the ruling from the chair I only ask for some information, and nothing else.

The PRESIDENT: Do you want to speak?

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: Yes, as I had not the opportunity—my speech will be something like the beautiful performance of one groping in the dark.

Complaints after complaints have been made that practically we have no information or details about these big amounts, which are being demanded from us. Well, if I cannot properly understand what officials are being included in the subordinate executive staff, that requires a greater enquiry on our part to find out later on. As I now understand that these people are poor sub-inspectors and inspectors, who are receiving less pay than even what you have granted to the police sergeants, though these people are called upon to discharge much more onerous duties, I feel almost inclined to withdraw my motion and support the demand—that is by way of contrast—and before I get any further information I do not like to add one word more.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: We have heard many speeches on these motions as well as the most friendly speech of the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, who was friendly from the beginning. I shall try to reply as far as practicable. I do not say that my ground for opposing these motions is that there is a strong feeling amongst the police officers that the amendments should not be considered: that is not my ground. My ground for opposition is this: these subordinate executive staff consists of 11 Assistant Commissioners and about 60 inspectors and sub-inspectors, most of whom are graduates of the Calcutta University, while others are M.A.'s and so on. We often allege on public platforms and in the Press that Government do not give sufficient openings to our young men befitting their education in the administration of the country, and so our young men of about 20 are going astray and joining the anarchist party. And yet, when Government offer them some appointments in the Police Department, we come forward and say that we will not increase the pay of those appointments. This is the peculiar way of action of the leaders of our country—we always try to put obstacles in the way of Government. Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur says that we are almost without any police, we are undefended, so to speak. How can you get the proper service of the police, unless you pay them adequately? Then the Rai Bahadur says that the estimates prepared by Government and the Calcutta Corporation are always bad. With due deference to the Rai Bahadur,

I may say that personally I have some experience of municipal administration, being a commissioner of the Howrah Municipality, and I say that, if these estimates are bad, it is the leaders who are responsible for it.

We are passing through hard times, and the cost of living has gone up considerably; and the pay of all the higher services has been increased; the pay of the Indian Civil Service, the Subordinate Judges, Munsifs, Deputy Magistrates; and the pay of the Sub-Deputy Magistrates is going to be increased; Rs 75,000 has been provided in the Budget for the improvement of the pay of the Sub-Registrars; the pay of the constables and head constables of the Calcutta police has been increased; the pay of domestic servants has been increased; and last but not the least, the pay of even the sweepers of the Calcutta Corporation has been increased. Is the case of these police inspectors so weak as not to deserve any consideration from us? They have all got a social status; they have to live respectably; they have got to educate their children and marry their daughters; and if Government want to pay them anything, I don't think we should stand in the way.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I am only too anxious in connection with these amendments to give the Council all the information relative to them that I can.

Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur has made some general remarks on the subject of the police, and with reference to them I do not wish to repeat what I have already recently said on two occasions. His general complaint is that the cost of the Presidency police has risen, and his second major suggestion is that, instead of squandering money on the higher paid posts, we should, first of all, tackle the case of some of the humbler members of the force. I admit that it is perfectly true that the cost of the Presidency police has risen, and on comparing the figures for 1919-20 and 1920-21 with those of 1921-22, we find that the total increase amounts to about Rs. 13 lakhs. But, if the member will examine the figures, he will find that out of that total increase of Rs. 13 lakhs, roughly about Rs. 10 lakhs is on account of the improvement of the pay of the subordinate members of the force—the very point which he has been arguing before us.

The facts are these with regard to the history of recent times. In March last, the Commissioner of Police pressed upon us the urgent need of the improvement of pay, practically throughout the ranks of the Calcutta police, from Assistant Commissioners down to constables. We examined the matter then and we decided to deal first with the lower ranks, and we then made proposals which covered the case of constables, head constables and sergeants. What is known as the higher subordinate executive force comprises the ranks of Assistant Commissioners, inspectors and sub-inspectors, and we practically told them last year that we had no money to deal with their case then

and that they must wait till next year. It was hard on them, but we had no alternative. However, this did almost amount to a promise that we would take up their case this year; and in redemption of that promise we have made this provision. The provision, as it stands, is for Rs. 1½ lakhs, but the scheme which Mr. Clarke has sent up is for roughly just under Rs. 2½ lakhs; and again we shall have to cut down his scheme in order to get it within the measure of our resources.

In outline, his proposals are these, though again I may say that these proposals may not be ultimately sanctioned in full, as we shall have to try to effect economies; but we shall not probably be able to make great retrenchments. In this connection I may mention that, if at the time this case is ripe for disposal, the standing police committee to which His Excellency invited this Council to elect members, is in being, then this case will go before that standing committee. Mr. Clarke's proposals deal with the three ranks of Assistant Commissioners, inspectors and sub-inspectors. The permanent Assistant Commissioners number 11, and they are descendants of the old superintendents of police who preceded the days of the Police Commission. The old superintendents used to get a pay of Rs. 300 rising to Rs. 600, and when they became Assistant Commissioners, their maximum was cut down to Rs. 500, and they were given Rs. 400 rising to Rs. 500. In Bombay, they get Rs. 500 rising to Rs. 800, and Mr. Clarke's proposal is to put them on the footing of Bombay.

Turning to inspectors—their number is at present 39. The Commissioner's proposals with reference to them are twofold: one concerning the number and the other concerning the pay. At the present moment, in Calcutta, there are 19 investigating sections, each of which is in charge of a sub-inspector. That is a state of things which did not exist before 1906 in Calcutta, and does not exist anywhere else. It is not right that an important section of that size should be in charge of a sub-inspector. The Commissioner of Police wishes to put them in the charge of inspectors. He first asked for 31, but knowing that money is short, he has cut down the number to 14. That is one part of his proposal, and the other portion is in relation to the pay, which at present is in three grades of Rs. 200, Rs. 250 and Rs. 300, or the same as was recommended by the Police Commission 17 years ago, thus taking no account of the large enhancement of the cost of living in recent times. Mr. Clarke's proposal is to put inspectors on the Bombay level of Rs. 300 rising to Rs. 400.

Lastly, as regards sub-inspectors, Mr. Clarke hopes to make a retrenchment in their number as a set-off against the addition in the number of inspectors. But he wishes to raise their pay, which now is Rs. 125, Rs. 140, Rs. 150 and Rs. 175—rates which were sanctioned in 1905, more than 15 years ago—on the analogy of Bombay, to Rs. 150—200.

These are the proposals, and I trust that the Council will realise that they are not in themselves extravagant, although we contemplate a certain degree of retrenchment in order to bring the scheme within the provision of Rs. 1½ lakhs.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler that before the scheme is given effect to, it will be placed before the Finance Committee about to be appointed, I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was as follows: "That the demand under head '26-A' for hospital charges, Presidency Police, for Rs. 55,000 be reduced by Rs. 13,000."

The PRESIDENT: Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur is unwell and asks for permission that the motion standing in his name may be moved by another member. I think that, in the special circumstances, there is no objection to such permission being given.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY moved the following motion, standing in the name of Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur: "That the demand under head '26A—Presidency Police' be reduced to Rs. 31,37,000."

He read out the following speech:—

The first Budget review stated the revised estimate of Police expenditure as Rs. 28,10,000 and the sanctioned estimate as Rs. 30,16,000 and then went on to account for the increase. I failed to understand how the increase could occur. I tried to find out the cause and learnt that the sum of Rs. 5,00,000 provided for the Alms House project was not spent, and by way of correction the second review says that the increase might have been larger but for some concessions granted to constables and sergeants. The Alms House project fell through, and the money was appropriated for other objects. This principle of freehand in spending public money is bad; and it should be discouraged by all means. Unless there be some effective control over the spending departments, the officials would be tempted to spend whatever money they could lay hands upon.

I find, there is a sum a little less than Rs. 6,00,000 in the Presidency Police Budget, page 75, for "non-contract" charges. But what these charges are has not been mentioned. No details have been given. Are these charges too well known to be given in details? Or am I to conclude that the sum of nearly Rs. 6,00,000 is an insignificant amount? This system is bad. The public have every right to know, especially when the Government is threatened with a huge deficit, for what object

this big sum is going to be spent. The framer of the Budget should be prepared to satisfy the public, otherwise this head should be considered practically non-voted.

The public outside is intelligently watching and scrutinising our action in this Council. Their confidence in us in future and the nation's faith in the Reforms depend on our successful mode of handling the public money. They want to know whether the old tale of waste of public funds or the injudicious expenditure for objects unknown or almost unknown is also going to be repeated under the new régime.

However, I am told by the Hon'ble Member in charge that a sum of Rs. 5,00,000 has been proposed to be spent for the new Alms House project. If it be so, I wonder why the new scheme is going to be undertaken this year? The Alms House of Amherst Street is certainly a good building, and the locality can by no means be condemned. In answer to my question it may also be suggested that we are going to sell the site to the Improvement Trust at a sum of Rs. 3,00,000. Yet, we have to spend Rs. 2,00,000. We should not spend the amount in these days of financial stringency. I, therefore, propose to withhold our grant for the new Alms House project.

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: I realise the position of the Government. There is no denial of the fact that some of the demands, such as increase in salaries, are extremely urgent in these days of high prices and so concessions must be made in these; but there are others for reorganisation, improvements and addition, which, although important, can safely be postponed till our finances improve. Already the Police is taking the lion's share of the revenue, while Education, Sanitation, etc., are getting disproportionately less; further additions to it must be made very cautiously in the face of the deficit Budget I believe it will be more judicious to defer fresh grants till our financial relations with the central Government be readjusted; only then we will know our position and can safely distribute our resources to the various departments.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: It may be my fault, but I confess that I found it a little difficult to grasp what the amendment of the Rai Bahadur meant. But, as far as I could make out, it is connected with this provision of Rs. 5,00,000 on account of the Alms House. That is to say, the present provision for the Presidency police is Rs. 36,37,000, and the Rai Bahadur wants to make it Rs. 31,37,000 by a reduction of Rs. 5,00,000, while I gather that his real grievance is about the Rs. 5,00,000 for the Alms House. If he wishes, we will explain the facts; but I put it to him that, as the same issue is raised in amendment No. 73, it will be simpler for him to withdraw his present amendment and to let the matter be debated on the specific amendment No. 73. If, however, he prefers to go on with his own motion, Mr. Stephenson will explain the matter.

At this stage, on Mr. Stephenson rising to speak, the Rai Bahadur expressed his desire to withdraw his motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur moved "that the demand for Rs. 2,75,000 for the revision of the rates of pay of the inspectors of the Bengal police be refused."

In this connection I just wish to say one word. During the discussion of my last motion, I was not a little amused by the speech of Babu Nitya Dhon Mukherjee, but I must say that he entirely missed my point. It was far from my intention to stand in the way of improving the pay of the police inspectors All that I wanted was that these proposals might be postponed for a time with a view to their being considered by the Finance Committee or the Standing Committee and their specific recommendations might then come up before the Council and the Budget grant made with effect from the 1st April 1921. Perhaps my friend did not pay sufficient heed to my speech. But still I am glad that he amused us not a little by his performance.

With regard to this item I have just had a conversation with the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler and I was told that a standing committee would be appointed to consider all these police charges. The committees would go into the schemes again before Government gives effect to them. That is the point which I wanted to urge when I gave notices of my motion. But it was only announced the day before yesterday that standing committees would be appointed. I am glad to have this opportunity of eliciting the information from a Member of Government, and as that point has been made clear, I am very glad to withdraw my amendment.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu Surendra Nath Ray was to have moved "that the demand for hill and Dacca allowances and hill journey charges in account No. 26 be refused."

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I have already said that after the assurance given by the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler that the motion will be reduced by two-thirds under the head "Hill journey allowances," I beg to withdraw the motion.

The resolution was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur moved "that the demand for Rs. 80,000 for the reorganisation of the town police in the 24-Parganas be refused."

I hope I am correct in my anticipation that this item will be examined by the Standing Committee before effect is given to it, and so I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: Perhaps it is just as well hat I should explain the position regarding these standing committees n order to save misunderstanding in future. As the Council is aware, Iis Excellency has asked them to submit names for election to the standng committees to be attached to different departments. Among the ist, the Police Department is one, and to the Police Department a standig committee will be attached in due course. That committee vill be consulted about schemes of major importance and all nformation will be placed before them. The two schemes just disussed, and the two that follow, undoubtedly come within the category f major schemes, and therefore the standing committee will be conulted about them. But I should like it to be clearly understood that we re not bound to follow implicitly what the standing committee say. Ve will consult them, lay all the information before them, but the ultiate decision will, of course, rest with the Executive Government.

The PRESIDENT: Are you prepared to withdraw your motion?

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I have already agreed to ithdraw the motion. But I hope that the consultation with the comittee will not merely be a complimentary one—of which we have had ough for the last 50 years—but that there will be a whole-hearted nsultation and co-operation which will be the very reverse of Gandhim.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: Is my friend in order, Sir?

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: The motion that stands in my ame is "that the demand for Rs. 45,000 for the reorganisation of the wn police in the Hooghly district for six months be refused."

For the reasons already given by Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur I g to withdraw the motion because I understand that all these matters ould come before the Standing Committee.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: The motion that stands in y name is "that the demand for Rs. 20,000 for strengthening the nergency force at Asansol for six months be refused." But I should e to withdraw this motion and in doing so, I would just point out how ry reasonable and accommodating the Indian members are and how hen an opportunity for co-operation occurs, they whole-heartedly -operate.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: My next motion is "that e demand for Rs. 20,000 for the increase in the river police contingens be refused." I beg to withdraw it.

The motion was withdrawn.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI moved " that the demand '26—Police' be reduced by Rs 5,00,000 by the omission from the lget of the provision for payment to the District Charitable Society acquisition of land and building for the proposed new Alms House." s is not a new matter. The proposal has been brought from time to e. There is no hurry about this matter and the market value of the l is very high at present My object is not to reject it altogether, that it can be done later on when we have more funds at our disposal. s no use spending money upon the acquisition of land now. I have ed to Colonel Pugh about the matter, and he says that he is ready buy up the land, if we do not do it. I do not know if there is any rm in the land. I think it can be done later on when the market is e favourable owing to the extension of Calcutta by the Improvement st. I hope, therefore, this motion will be accepted.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I wish to say a few words r. As I said at the beginning, it is due to our ignorance of the figures t all these motions have been brought in. It is no fault of mine or friend or of anybody. I may, however, give some information to friend as regards this item. There was an Alms House in Amherst eet. The plot of land, where it stood, has been sold as not being able. This Alms House was built in 1840 or earlier—there are very resting records about it, which can be suitably kept in the Victoria seum—the land was given by Government and vested in the District ritable Society, and in the records you will find signatures of h persons as the late Prasanna Kumar Tagore, Ram Gopal Ghose, na Prasad Ray and others. That land has been disposed of. I eve it has fetched Rs. 4,20,000 and more for the materials Govern- it, I believe, wants to utilise a portion of the land for locating a ce section and a workhouse. So I do not think that Government is tributing very much to the District Charitable Society. In fact they giving back what they had taken If you omit this item then those are accommodated there will be thrown out into the streets. Having ard to this fact, I hope my friend will withdraw his motion.

Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I do not think there is quite the same use for groping in the dark about this amendment, inasmuch as the le case was fully debated just a year ago in the old Council on a ion moved by Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur. The actual s are these In 1840, a plot of about 10½ bighas of land was made r to the District Charitable Society by Government, on condition that could be used for purposes of poor relief The Alms House was built t, and it was administered by the District Charitable Society. When European Vagrancy Act was passed in 1874, after some negotiations h the Society, the European Workhouse was moved from the Presi- ncy Jail to the same site in Amherst Street on certain conditions. ce then these two institutions—the Alms House and the Workhouse—

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: Perhaps it is just as well that I should explain the position regarding these standing committees in order to save misunderstanding in future. As the Council is aware, His Excellency has asked them to submit names for election to the standing committees to be attached to different departments. Among the list, the Police Department is one, and to the Police Department a standing committee will be attached in due course. That committee will be consulted about schemes of major importance and all information will be placed before them. The two schemes just discussed, and the two that follow, undoubtedly come within the category of major schemes, and therefore the standing committee will be consulted about them. But I should like it to be clearly understood that we are not bound to follow implicitly what the standing committee say. We will consult them, lay all the information before them, but the ultimate decision will, of course, rest with the Executive Government.

The PRESIDENT: Are you prepared to withdraw your motion?

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I have already agreed to withdraw the motion. But I hope that the consultation with the committee will not merely be a complimentary one—of which we have had enough for the last 50 years—but that there will be a whole-hearted consultation and co-operation, which will be the very reverse of Gandhiism.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: Is my friend in order, Sir?

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: The motion that stands in my name is "that the demand for Rs. 45,000 for the reorganisation of the town police in the Hooghly district for six months be refused."

For the reasons already given by Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur I beg to withdraw the motion because I understand that all these matters would come before the Standing Committee.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: The motion that stands in my name is "that the demand for Rs. 20,000 for strengthening the emergency force at Asansol for six months be refused." But I should like to withdraw this motion and in doing so, I would just point out how very reasonable and accommodating the Indian members are and how when an opportunity for co-operation occurs, they whole-heartedly co-operate.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: My next motion is "that the demand for Rs. 20,000 for the increase in the river police contingencies be refused." I beg to withdraw it.

The motion was withdrawn.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI moved "that the demand for '26—Police' be reduced by Rs. 5,00,000 by the omission from the Budget of the provision for payment to the District Charitable Society for acquisition of land and building for the proposed new Alms House." This is not a new matter. The proposal has been brought from time to time. There is no hurry about this matter and the market value of the land is very high at present. My object is not to reject it altogether, but that it can be done later on when we have more funds at our disposal. It is no use spending money upon the acquisition of land now. I have talked to Colonel Pugh about the matter, and he says that he is ready to buy up the land, if we do not do it. I do not know if there is any charm in the land. I think it can be done later on when the market is more favourable owing to the extension of Calcutta by the Improvement Trust. I hope, therefore, this motion will be accepted

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I wish to say a few words only. As I said at the beginning, it is due to our ignorance of the figures that all these motions have been brought in. It is no fault of mine or my friend or of anybody. I may, however, give some information to my friend as regards this item. There was an Alms House in Amherst Street. The plot of land, where it stood, has been sold as not being suitable. This Alms House was built in 1840 or earlier—there are very interesting records about it, which can be suitably kept in the Victoria Museum—the land was given by Government and vested in the District Charitable Society, and in the records you will find signatures of such persons as the late Prasanna Kumar Tagore, Ram Gopal Ghose, Rama Prasad Ray and others That land has been disposed of I believe it has fetched Rs. 4,20,000 and more for the materials Government, I believe, wants to utilise a portion of the land for locating a police section and a workhouse. So I do not think that Government is contributing very much to the District Charitable Society. In fact they are giving back what they had taken If you omit this item then those who are accommodated there will be thrown out into the streets. Having regard to this fact, I hope my friend will withdraw his motion.

Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I do not think there is quite the same excuse for groping in the dark about this amendment, inasmuch as the whole case was fully debated just a year ago in the old Council on a motion moved by Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur. The actual facts are these In 1840, a plot of about 10½ bighas of land was made over to the District Charitable Society by Government, on condition that it would be used for purposes of poor relief. The Alms House was built on it, and it was administered by the District Charitable Society. When the European Vagrancy Act was passed in 1874, after some negotiations with the Society, the European Workhouse was moved from the Presidency Jail to the same site in Amherst Street on certain conditions. Since then these two institutions—the Alms House and the Workhouse—

have been in Amherst Street side by side. In 1915 a Committee was appointed to enquire into the future management of the Alms House. This Committee reported in 1916 that there were very strong objections to having the Alms House and the Workhouse on the same plot and under the same management. For several obvious reasons it was desirable to move the Alms House, and further that that portion of Calcutta was not a suitable place for it. It should be moved further out where land was less valuable and more space was available. The Committee therefore approached Government with a view to Government taking over this land and giving the Committee the value of the land and the buildings. The Government demurred on the ground that the Society had no clear title over the land. It was only there for certain purposes. After some bargaining, however, the Government finally made an offer which the Committee did not consider was a generous one—that we would pay them Rs. 5,00,000 and take over the land. The Society agreed to that, Rs. 5,00,000 being the estimated cost of transferring the Alms House to a more suitable site outside and erecting suitable buildings. Government propose to take over the land. They have already sold the northern half of the plot to the Improvement Trust for Rs. 2,88,000, and the Public Works Department estimate that another Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 24,000 can be realised from the materials on that land. A portion of the southern half is kept for the purpose of a new police section house, the estimated value of that portion being just under Rs. 1,00,000. That gives us something over Rs. 4,00,000, and in return for the remainder, which is something under Rs. 1,00,000, we have the existing Workhouse. I do not think that the Council will feel that Government have been in any way remiss in looking after their own interests. As we have already sold half the land to the Improvement Trust, we stand committed and therefore we cannot postpone payment for the Alms House. And unless we pay, the Alms House cannot be removed. I hope the Council, after this explanation, will pass the grant.

The motion being put, a division was taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Afzal, Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M.
Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ali, Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Chatak, Rai Sahib Nilmani.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Haq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Ray, Babu Bhabendra Chandra.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.

NOES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr C. H.
Bose, Mr. S M.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cochran, Mr. A.
Cohen. Mr. D. J.
Das, Mr. S. R.
Das Rai Bahadur, Amar Nath.
Donald, Mr. J.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Hopkyns, Mr W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmeur, Mr. F. A.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Marr, Mr. A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Morgan, Mr. C.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Rhodes, Mr. C. W.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. J. E.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 34 and the Noes 44, the motion was lost

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned to 3 P.M. on the 17th instant at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 17th March, 1921, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Executive Members the Hon'ble the three Ministers and 110 nominated and elected members

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda) Order! Order! Gentlemen, it has been brought to my notice that, in spite of what I said at an earlier stage of the sittings of this Council that it was improper to canvass inside the Council Chamber the same practice was repeated yesterday. As I have said, it is improper to do so, and it is still more objectionable, when done in a way calculated to disturb the other members of the Council. I should like to say that, if this occurs again, I shall have to take such notice of the matter as I think fit in order to maintain discipline in the Council Chamber.

Voting of Grants.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED moved "that the demand under head '26 Police' be reduced by Rs. 23,32,700, the excess over the original Budget figure of 1920-21."

I think having regard to the income and demands on the provincial revenue the police ought to be satisfied with what was budgeted for in the year 1920-21. I am alive to the fact that since then some increments have been sanctioned and some of these are most reasonable and proper, but I think that they ought to provide by curtailing from other heads and by abolishing some posts in the upper ranks. The posts of the Deputy Inspectors-General and Deputy Superintendents may safely be abolished. Union Committees are being formed all over the province and they will afford much relief to the police. The Bengal Alluvial Act has been passed and *char* areas, which engaged much attention of the riparian police, will cease to give them much trouble. So the number of police officers may be reduced. The causes for which increments have been granted are general, and they have equally affected the Government servants as well as the public at large. People of moderate and fixed incomes have had to curtail their expenses, and have to suffer for the dearness of the necessaries of life, and there is no reason why the Government servants should not suffer the same inconveniences as the public. Moreover, in allowing increments on grounds of hardship, it should be taken into consideration what portion of an officer's salary is actually spent in meeting the barest necessities

of life, and increment should bear a proportion to that portion of the salary only. A gentleman has remarked that Municipal sweepers have been allowed an increment of 25 to 30 per cent. Are the Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors lower than the sweepers that they should not get the same increment? I confess I could not follow the logic there. The former salaries of the sweepers were scarcely sufficient to keep their body and soul together, and under the present state of things they are far below what is required. So they highly deserved increment and in a higher ratio. In case of officers of higher rank I think they do not spend more than half their salaries for necessaries of life even according to their own standard of living, and the balance they expend in luxuries or lay by for the future. Can they claim increment at the cost of tax-payers, whose income has not increased but have to share the burden of higher cost of living. I want a curtailment on another very important ground. The extremists from the very beginning are crying down the Reform Scheme and they are impressing on the people that Reforms without giving any real power to the people have become a potent means of grinding their bones with the help of their own brethren. Government has gagged some of the leaders by offering high salaries and others by allowing seats in the Council without allowing adequate powers in controlling the affairs of the country. The non-co-operators are crying out from the house-tops that the Reforms have brought nothing but miseries in the shape of increased expenditure and consequent unbearable taxes. What has been taking place for the last few weeks in the Councils and the Assembly are corroborating their statements. Although Mr. Kerr has steered clear of Scylla and Charybdis, Mr. Hailey is not equally fortunate. He, by suggesting increased rates of postage and import duties on some of the barest necessaries of life, has made the Reforms felt by the humblest dwellers of the cottages. He has placed a very powerful lever in the hands of the non-co-operators. The people at large are keenly watching the proceedings of the Council, and in every defeat of the non-officials they see a clear indication of the future fate of the country under the Reforms. I do not mean thereby that non-officials should succeed in every thing, but I hope and trust that officials instead of presenting a bold front to non-official demands should make concessions. In moving for reduction of the grant I do not intend to minimise the importance of the department, but on the contrary I am fully aware that on their good work depends the safety of the person and property of the people, but at the same time I am convinced that the rate at which the expenditure is increasing requires immediate check and there is room for curtailments. I am also of opinion that economy can be effected by supplementing the stipendiary police by honorary organisations. The present police arrangement for prevention of crime is anything but satisfactory. It cannot effectively restrain the activities of the ruffians. In Calcutta, notwithstanding a properly equipped staff, the police cannot trace the *goondas* in their

dens, though I have reason to believe these are known to many non-official gentlemen of the town. They do not render any help to the police in the task, as the police never approach them in a spirit essentially necessary for getting such assistance. I think it would serve an eminently useful purpose, if gentlemen both in towns and in the mufassal were made interested in the maintenance of the peace of the country. Like honorary magistrates the post of honorary inspectors, sub-inspectors and constables can be created, and some functions of the ordinary police—such as watching the movements of the bad characters and suspects, the checking of rounds of constables, chaukidars and dafadars can safely be entrusted to them. They, being fully acquainted with local circumstances and having known most of the people in the locality, can discharge these duties with greater advantage. Arrangements can be made for training of these honorary workers and they may be encouraged by rewarding their good works, such as recruiting constables and assistant sub-inspectors from among them on the recommendations of the honorary inspectors. Even their presence in the mufassal will serve to check the activities of the *badmashes*. When properly trained they can effectively prevent rioting, murders and other grave crimes, as they are sure to get scent of the smouldering fires before they are ablaze. Preservation of honorary inspectors and sub-inspectors in the locality will serve as a check on the work of stipendiary sub-inspectors in the matters of investigation as well, for they will think twice before they do any improper things. At present the reserve police force enjoy a sort of sinecure post. Their services can be utilised in training up the honorary staff and in doing some other useful purposes, such as hunting down wild boars. As you are aware I am concerned with one of the biggest co-operative central banks in India. In 1917, when the price of jute abnormally fell, the mufassal banks could not pay interest, and I was thinking to find out some means to improve the resources of the cultivators. The increased price of sugar and molasses suggested to me that cultivators might with advantage substitute sugarcane for jute, and I accordingly sent for some members of the mufassal societies and I made proposals to them. They replied in a body that formerly they were in the habit of growing sugarcane in high lands, but now it has become an impossibility as, since the troubles over the partition agitations, almost all the guns in the mufassal have been forfeited and destroyed. The number of wild boars has risen high, and they are causing havoc to their crops and they are quite helpless. On this I wrote a long letter to the District Magistrate suggesting, among other things, that the reserve police may be engaged in batches to hunt down the wild boars' and I sent a copy of the same to the Registrar. Mr. Donovan was kind enough to make certain suggestions, but the Magistrate took no action. I think he could not do anything without the orders of the Inspector-General of Police. I think it quite reasonable that a set of officers who fatten themselves

out of the public revenue should do something for the public good and protect the crops of the helpless cultivators. It will serve as well a diversion to the reserve police while doing immense good to the country. I make bold to make these suggestions in the hope that the authorities will consider the same and see their way to give them a trial. I earnestly request the official members to see if it is not possible to make some concessions in order to show it to the world, if not for anything else, that ours is not a cry in the wilderness.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: When I saw so many motions standing in the name of experienced Councillors I naturally thought that the Budget must be quite a rotten thing. But when I saw even veteran warriors of the Council merrily withdrawing their motions I thought I should modify my motion. We have accused the Executive Council, the Government and the Ministers for not having a definite policy of their own. But what do I find of the members present here? None of the members seem to have a definite policy, which will enable us to steer the Reforms to a successful issue—to make the Reforms a success.

In order to make the most important departments such as self-government a success, in order to make it possible for the Council to enable the country to realise their own rights and responsibilities, it is absolutely necessary that this Council should find out means to provide for compulsory education and also for uplifting the masses by bettering the conditions of the peasantry. But the provisions which have been made in this connection are so scanty that it can well be said that no provision whatsoever has been made. The attempt which has been made by my friend Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin Ahmed means to effect some saving at least and taking this saving along with the other savings, we should form a nucleus for doing things, which we ought to.

Looking to the Budget we find that the expenditure on police stood in the year 1919-20 at Rs. 1,43,00,000 but in the year 1920-21 it went up to Rs. 1,50,00,000, there was a difference of Rs 6,36,000; but in the same year the revised Budget went up again, and it stood at Rs. 1,63,00,000. So the difference between the estimate of 1919-20 and that of 1920-21 was Rs. 19,29,000. Not satisfied with the great expense that we made in the year 1920-21, this time we have been called upon to give an additional grant of Rs. 27,00,000 and odd. The resolution as it stands asks for a reduction of Rs. 23,00,000 only. So here too we are giving a margin of extra Rs. 4,00,000 to the Government to spend on the various improvements it likes. Objection could be raised against this curtailment in lump from the grant, but we are to remember that this curtailment though it is in lump, leaves the discretion of the members of Government unfettered, and they will be able to apply the pruning knife to

those departments where they possibly can. Further we have been told that we are going to have a committee of non-official members of the Council. This Committee along with the members of Government could undoubtedly find out the departments, from which a curtailment could be made. I must here thank the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler for telling us frankly that, though the Committee will be there, it will be of a consultative character, and any decision that the members of the committee may arrive at will not have a binding effect on the Government. So when we consider this fact, it seems that it should be our bounden duty to exercise our own rights, and we shall do so when we find that by so doing we are not going to harm the administration. We have to remember that, in case the Government find that by the reduction of Rs. 23,00,000 which this amendment proposes to make, they are not in a position to carry on the administration. The Government as well as the members of the Committee will be within their rights to place their difficulties before the Council, and as the Council does not like to fetter the work of the administration, the Council must give them the demands wherever necessary. The power of this Council and of us, the Councillors, lies in our rights, and as we have the right, I hope that the members of the Council will not hesitate to exercise this right, and leave the members of Government to point out the difficulties that they will have to face, and on looking into them we shall be able to modify our views.

With these remarks I strongly support the motion.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: Yesterday I was not quite well and therefore I left the meeting before the amendments on the police grant were discussed. I was surprised to find that everyone had been withdrawn, and then I knew that the object of the combination was simply to defeat the survey and settlement proceedings, the addition to the cadre of munsifs and deputy magistrates and the abolition of the post of Additional Legal Remembrancer, Mr. P. L. Roy. This increasing expenditure on police is a sore point with the people of this country. It is well known that the people of this country are not in great love with the police. I know very well that without the police our lives and properties are not safe. The first great recommendation of the British Government is to restore peace and order in a country which never knew them before, but the police unfortunately has become unpopular and the increasing expenditure on it is greatly disliked by the people of this country. Before an increased expenditure is sanctioned it is the bounden duty of Government to satisfy the people that without that increase peace and order cannot be restored. There was a time when anarchy was rife and one could understand that there should be an increase in the establishment. But now there is profound peace in the country notwithstanding Mahatma Gandhi and the non-co-operators. Our Government is deceived by the police; never

fancy for a moment that in Bengal there should be any breach of peace or any anarchical crimes again. Why should there be this extraordinary increase in the police expenditure? You have given us some sort of representative Government. You have allowed the people to select their representatives to help you in the Government of this country. Please give them a chance and see whether they can be of any help to you in keeping the peace of the land. Now, if we, the representatives of the people, sanction this increased expenditure we shall certainly be very unpopular. We want to be in the confidence of our people, and therefore I think that this increased expenditure should not be sanctioned. Government will have to make a very strong case for it. Every year increased expenditure on the police cannot be tolerated, especially when we find that we have got no money for medical help to the poor, when we have no money to pay to the *gurus* and priests, when we have no money for pure, impure or any sort of drinking water in the land. This increase in the police expenditure cannot be tolerated. We shall try our best to cut down the expenditure so that we may get money for medical help, for pure drinking water and for *gurus* and priests. We are bound to have these things, and, if we cannot so curtail our expenditure as to get these things, I think our presence in this Council is simply superfluous. I therefore submit that this money of Rs. 23,32,700 should be struck out.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I had no mind to speak on this motion, but after the suggestion that has been made by my friend Maulvi Ekramul Huq I think I ought to support his suggestion. He has referred to what the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler said yesterday as to the appointment of a police committee to examine the details of police expenditure. It is said that if the members of the proposed standing committee be satisfied that the expenditure was necessary then they would pass it. My suggestion is that if a proper case is made out before the members of the standing committee, and if the members recommend this increased expenditure of Rs. 23,32,700, if the members say that this expenditure is necessary, then we shall pass it, provided a supplementary budget is placed before us. Why should we pass it now? It is well known that the police expenditure is increasing by leaps and bounds. For the last 8 years my friend Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq and myself have condemned the increased expenditure on the police, but nobody heard us. It was a cry in the wilderness. We were on the alert, but as our mouths were stopped on account of the anarchist movement we could not say anything. Now that there is nobody who can say that the anarchists are still flourishing in the country, we have every right to ask the Government not to increase but to reduce the grant. We find to our surprise that Government want to spend Rs. 27 lakhs more on the police this year. It has increased from 1 crore of rupees to 2 crores of rupees in the course of 7 or 8 years. I do not know what the Hon'ble Member in charge will say but my suggestion is that the matter should be placed before the

standing committee; we cannot grant this amount now, but if the Member in charge can satisfy us that there is a real case for increase, let there be a supplementary budget and we shall pass it.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: At the tag-end of yesterday's Council meeting I moved certain motions in connection with the police budget with a view to its reduction. Unfortunately my motions did not receive at that time that reception, which the present motion to-day receives, when the members have come quite refreshed and quite invigorated after their last triumph, that they obtained at yesterday's meeting of the Council. I believe there is some chance of this motion receiving favourable attention at the hands of this Council. While I associate myself with the mover, I wish to dissociate myself from some of the observations that have fallen from one or two previous speakers. Sir, it has been hinted that we are all against the police. I assert, and assert most emphatically, that we are not against the police, but as I said, and pardon me, Sir, for repetition—that this steady increase in the police budget during the last 10 years has attracted so much public attention both in the press and on the platform, in the Council Chamber and outside it, that it is time, when we have got the Reformed Council, for the Government to pause not with a view to at once reduce the expenditure, but to pause with a view to consult public opinion on the subject. I do not say that to consult public opinion we should consult any irresponsible body. It has been said by the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler that His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay has been pleased to direct that there should be standing committees of this House attached to every department of Government. When the country wants that the Budget should be scrutinised by the Standing Committee, and when it is possible to get a supplementary grant from this House, what is the difficulty in acceding to the request of this Council to reduce the grant as asked for, and then to come up with redoubled force when you come with a recommendation from that Committee? None knows better than the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, because we were associated with him in years past as members of the Finance Committee, how reasonable we were, and how accommodating we were when he asked for our support in the framing of the Budget, in increasing any item of expenditure and in recommending any additional allotment. I do not think, therefore, that there need be any apprehension on the part of the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, if he would accept this recommendation of the Council and for the time being consnt to the omission of Rs. 23,00,000 because I am sure that, when he will lay all the facts and figures before the standing committee (I presume that the Government has not got a bad case) the committee will not be so unreasonable as not to recommend a supplementary grant. It will have a double effect—the double effect is this, that it will inspire much greater public confidence in the action and intentions of Government to work in co-operation with the people, and it will ensure the safe passing of the police budget with the

figure that the department might think reasonable for the due and eff cient discharge of the duties of the police?

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I did not, at first, inten to speak at all, but now I think I should say something. All along ou protest against the police expenditure proved to be of no avail It w: a chronic disease for the Police department to spend more as in the cas of the Education department to spend less. I hope and believe tl department will now be careful about its expenditure, and without speci: sanction nothing will be spent. The estimate shows that there is a larg increase and the demand is very exorbitant. This is not the year i which we can be so lavish We must be very careful about our expend ture but we are prepared to keep an open mind If we are convinced th: a certain amount of expenditure is necessary we may reconsider th matter, when a fresh proposal would come before us. It is not onl under the head Police that all the expenditure on the department h: been shown, but under the head Public Works there is, I see, a larg sum of about Rs. 10,85,000 provided for the Police department Unde the circumstances, I think, these items should be considered by tl Finance Committee, which will come into existence shortly, and if ther is a real necessity, on their recommendation, we will provide the sum Without examining the thing carefully I think this Council should n be justified in sanctioning so high an estimate, specially as this is year of deficit. With these words I support the motion, as I thin we should cut down the estimate by the amount proposed

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'b Sir Henry Wheeler): This is, if I may say so, one of the most irrespo sible resolutions which I have heard moved in this Council, and agai if I may say so, I have seldom heard a series of more irresponsib speeches. In the course of the last two or three days it has been my fa to make several more or less lengthy speeches explaining in detail tl position in the matter of police. I have reviewed the expenditure in tl past and endeavoured to justify the scale on which it had been incurre I have drawn the attention of the Council to factors in the provinc life leading to the inevitable growth of expenditure on the police, and have explained at length the detailed schemes to which atention has bee drawn. I should have been quite prepared to explain at length tl detailed schemes which were the subjects of some of the resolutions la night but which the movers thought fit to withdraw. We were sittin here prepared with our replies, and we were perfectly ready to give tl facts and to justify our action. But many members of this Counc did not even take the trouble to attend to hear those speeches. Tl benches were strangely empty. None of the speakers to-day has bee at pains even to refer to any of the arguments which I adduced, or tl figures that I gave, proving that the Police Department has been, anything, underfinanced in the past and that there was a heavy leew:

to be made up in future. Not one of the speakers has to-day made any reference to any of the arguments which, in the course of the last two or three days, I have been trying to press upon the Council, but the benches to-day are crowded, and I gather from the tenor of the speeches that, say what I will, this resolution is sure to be supported. I may be pardoned for saying that I admire the adroitness of the cabal more than the wisdom which underlies it.

Let us come now to the arguments we have heard to-day. I will deal first with some of the curious arguments of the gentleman who moved this amendment. His proposal is to reduce expenditure, and what he is asking is that the expenditure should be limited to that of 1920-21, and that we should cut down the police budget by the sum of Rs. 23,00,000, that is, about one-eighth of the total we are asking this year for. This is the definite position to which he is seriously asking the vote of this Council. How does he justify it? He said: "Let us get rid of the Deputy Inspectors-General of Police." He might as well tell a General to run an army and get rid of his Colonels. He says: "Let us get rid of Deputy Superintendents," a grade created in modern times with the direct purpose of encouraging the Indian element in the force and giving it an avenue to positions of responsibility. He argues that union committees are about to reduce crime; surely let us wait and see whether they do so. The Alluvial Bill, too, is going to decrease crime, but the Alluvial Bill will be operative in restricted areas only. Again, let us wait and see the result of it. He proceeded to the amazing statement that the higher police officers of the present day can easily live on half their pay, whereas they devote the balance to luxury or savings. I only wish he were acquainted a little more with the domestic budgets of many honest officers who are now struggling in this province to maintain themselves and their families.

So much for his destructive criticism; let us see what his constructive proposals are. As far as I can understand, the position of the police force of this province is to be taken by a curious network of honorary officers. We know how popular in the past has been the appointment of special constables, and I am surprised to find it advocated on so wide a scale, but not content with special constables, we are to have special inspectors and honorary sub-inspectors.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: I did not suggest special constables to be appointed. I know they are appointed as a sort of punishment.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I fail to follow the explanation given by the mover. I refer to the extraordinary proposal for honorary inspectors and sub-inspectors who are in some curious way to supervise the investigation of crime. That is constructive proposal number one. What is the constructive proposal number two? After

some breezy remarks about the cultivation of sugarcane, which is scarc ly apposite to the present subject, he leads up to a proposal to turn tl police force into *shikaris* for the destruction of wild boars, though ho that is to render possible a reduction of Rs. 23,00,000 in the police budg I confess I am at a loss to see. The subsequent speakers were wis than the mover. They confined themselves to generalities, and we hea a frank confession from Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur that tl police were unpopular and that he would not make himself unpopular l voting for them I have no doubt that the popularity of Rai Jogendr Chunder Ghose Bahadur is a matter of intense importance both to himse and to the gentlemen who saw fit to return him to this Council, bu for my own part I prefer the preservation of peace and order in the pr vince to the convenience of an individual member, however worthy

Now, Sir, I do not propose to go over again the general argument which, as I have said, I have advanced during the last two or thre days. I have endeavoured to explain to this Council what the nature o the police expenditure is, and why it is required, and I can only say and say emphatically, that the police budget is not susceptible o a radical cut of Rs. 23,00,000 which is the proposition to which this Cou cil is asked to assent. The action of various members, yesterday i withdrawing their resolutions prevented our giving detailed explanation and now it seems to be argued that as they were kind enough to with draw their resolutions which affected, roughly, a total of Rs 5,70,00 therefore it is only reasonable that I should sacrifice Rs. 23,00,00 Again I confess it strikes me as a somewhat unfair proposition.

Lastly, reference has been made to the subject of the standing com mittee for the police. I may point out to this Council that not one yesterday, or at any other time, did I advance the appointment of th standing committee as an argument against proceeding with these reso lutions For my own part I should have preferred to answer the reso lutions, but last night the movers saw fit to withdraw their resolutions preferring that the details of these schemes should be examined in com mittee. As I have said, I am willing to discuss these proposals in stand ing committee, but in order to remove possible misapprehension, explained to the Council what the position of the standing committe is, namely, that it was never intended that no financial proposition should be brought before this Council without the *imprimatur* of th committee.

My reason, in brief for opposing this amendment is that it is irre sponsible; it is an amendment which has not been sought to be justi fied by any argument relative to the facts which have been discussed i the Council during the last two or three days, and it is sought to b justified merely by a general appeal to popular prejudice on a muc debated subject.

A division was then taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir.
Ali, Maulvi Syed Muksood.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Chatak, Rai Sahib Nilmani.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hami-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray, Babu Bhabendra Chandra.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh.
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.

NOES.

Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr C. H.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cohen. Mr. D. J.
Das, Mr. S. R.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
Donald, Mr. J.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Chose, Mr D. C.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Hopkyns, Mr W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Law, Raja Reshee Case.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Marr, Mr A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Rhodes, Mr. C. W.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 51 and the Noes 42, the motion was carried.

The PRESIDENT: Mr. D. C. Ghose's amendment is a small cut an as the bigger cut has been carried it automatically fails.

The following motion was then deemed to be withdrawn: "That th demand under the head '26—Police' be reduced by Rs. 88,000."

MEMBER in charge of MARINE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'bl Mr. Kerr) moved "that a sum of Rs. 1,19,000 be granted fc expenditure under the head '27—Ports and Pilotage.' "

The subject of Ports and Pilotage is now an Imperial subject. Th is a small item covering certain odds jobs, which the Local Governmer had to undertake for the ports of Calcutta and Chittagong. The detai will be found at page 89 of the Civil estimates, and I don't think I nee go into them at any length, as there are no motions connected with it.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'b Sir Henry Wheeler) moved "that a sum of Rs. 38,000 be grante for expenditure under head "29—Political.' "

The total demand of the vote is small, and it is very noticeably small than the actuals of the years 1917-18 and 1918-19, when the expenditu ran up to Rs. 2,50,000 due, of course, to the expenditure incurred in co nexion with the persons dealt with under the Defence of India Act ar Regulation III of 1818. There is a small increase under the head "Mi cellaneous;" that is due in the main to the fact that we have found necessary to employ a small staff of vernacular shorthand-writers report vernacular speeches. Apart from that, there is no distinctive fe ture about the grant.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (t Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter) moved " that a sum of Rs. 21,000 be grant for expenditure under head ' 30—Scientific Departments.' ".

The figures are set out at page 92 of the Budget estimates. Th include a donation to Scientific Societies, the Asiatic Society and t Barendra Research Committee at Rajshahi.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER moved "that a sum Rs. 1,05,46,000 be granted for expenditure under head '31—Educati (excluding European education)."

I wish to explain that the grant of Rs 2,000 under Refunds has be included with a view to obviate the unnecessary swelling of the reven and expenditure accounts, as the Government of India have ordered th all refunds from revenue in the Civil Estimates and in the accour must be shown as deductions from the actual collections. As, howeve all revenue collected is deposited in full into the Treasury, refunds whi represent the repayment of excess amount collected, are really expen ture and require the vote of this Council. The refunds are therefo included in the demand for grants.

On the revenue side, at page 17 of the Civil Estimates you w notice that receipts are growing. From Rs. 9,52,000 in 1917-18 th rose to Rs. 9,95,540 according to the accounts of 1920. The latest c culations with regard to the current financial year point to recei amounting to Rs. 11,00,000 and this figure has been adopted as t

estimate for the year in prospect. Although the figures are apparent the same yet they really represent a very fair increase in receipts, as shall presently explain.

The Hastings House School closed on the 31st December 1920, and the course of the current financial year and before the inauguration the Reforms, all technical and industrial schools, with the exception the Bengal Engineering College at Sibpur and the Dacca School Engineering, were transferred from the Education Department to t Department of Agriculture and Industries. The initiation of the Dac University will result in the absorption of the Dacca College in th University, the receipts from all these institutions will no longer available to us, and the estimate of Rs. 11,00,000 therefore represents very fair increase on last year's estimate.

Now, I shall draw the attention of the Council to the expenditure sid but before I do so, I desire to make a few preliminary remarks to expla why I am asking you to vote for Rs 1,06,32,000 when the grand total f 1921-22 is Rs. 1,26,07,000. If the Members will turn to page of the Budget of the Government of Bengal, the book which has a dar grey cover, they will find that the grand total is Rs 1,26,07,000 and the will also find two heads, one for transferred subjects and one for reserv subjects. The total of the non-voted amount under the transferred he is Rs. 5,77,000, the non-voted figures in the reserved head amount Rs. 5,42,000 and the amount in the sub-column comes to Rs. 1,63,00 making a grand total of Rs. 1,12,09,000. If we deduct Rs. 12,82,0 from Rs. 1,26,07,000 which is a grand total, we arrive at the figure Rs. 1,13,25,000, which is the total amount before you.

If you turn to page 93 of the Civil Budget Estimates, you will fi Rs. 1,13,25,000 is the exact figure which is given there as the total amou on which you will have to vote, but you may ask me how it is that I a asking you to vote only for Rs. 1,06,32,000. This is because my Hon'b colleague Sir Henry Wheeler, will ask you to vote for the balan Rs. 6,93,000 for Europeans Education. The grand total of Rs. 1,26,07,0 therefore represents all general educational activities in the Presiden of Bengal, excepting expenditure on certain vocational institutions, su as Medical, Technical, Industrial and Agricultural educatio The expenditure of Rs. 1,12,09,000 represents the total demand for a general educational activities in the Presidency of Bengal, excludin European and Anglo-Indian schools, for Indians in the excluded area and certain vocational institutions, to which I have already referred.

If you will turn to page 93 of the Civil Budget estimates, yo will find the figure for which you will have to vote, namely Rs. 1,13,25,000—the non-voted amount is Rs 12,82,000. Althoug you have nothing to do with the non-voted amount, still, in order t explain how the voted amount comes in, if you will refer once more t the table at page 38 of the grey book, you will find that the total of th

voted amounts on the reserved side, and the total of the voted amoun on the transferred side, comes to the figure Rs. 1,13,25,000 mentione above. Therefore it is clear that you have to vote for Rs. 1,13,25,000 but out of this sum, I am concerned only with Rs 10,60,32,000. How ever, I have given this explanation, because in the Civil Budge estimates the demands for European Education and Indian Educatio are lumped together, and the demands for education in the exclude areas, such as Darjeeling, Chittagong Hill Tracts, are also included

After this preliminary explanation I shall draw the attention of th House to page 93 of the white book. There you will find five mino heads—

	Rs.
University	10,68,000
Secondary	25,99,000
Primary	1,04,000
Special	13,74,000
General Expenditure	74,52,000

As I have to ask for your vote with regard to these minor heads, I shal very briefly explain the position.

With regard to "University" for which I ask you to vot Rs 10,68,000, this provision includes Rs. 9,06,000 as a grant to th Dacca University, Rs 40,000 for the proposed Board of Intermediat and Secondary education in Dacca, Rs 1,28,000 by way of a grant t the Calcutta University This Rs. 1,28,000 is an amount which the Calcutta University has been receiving in the past, and there is no curtailment whatsoever in the contribution to it. The Government of Bengal was credited with this grant by the Government of India in connection with the recent financial settlement, and so this grant has now to be paid from provincial revenues I mention this because, besides this Rs. 1,28,000, a sum of Rs 1,29,000 is included for distribution through the Calcutta University to private arts colleges. Under the sub-head "Grant-in-aid," which you will find at page 102 of the white book, the first sub-head is Colleges, General Rs. 4,07,000; through the Calcutta University, Government distribute Rs. 1,29,000 and the Calcutta University gets a direct contribution of Rs. 1,28,000, making a total of Rs. 2,57,000.

Now I mention the item of Rs. 40,000 for the proposed Intermediate and Secondary education at Dacca. I will deal with it later in detail, as I find there are some amendments on the subject, but I will explain shortly what it is about. If members will turn to the Dacca University Act, section 6 clause (5) they will see that it has been enacted that "it shall not be lawful for the Dacca University to conduct courses or maintain classes for the purpose of preparing students for admission to the University," and under section 47 of the same Act it has been enacted

that "save as otherwise provided in this Act, the powers of the University conferred by or under this Act shall not extend beyond a radius of five miles from the Convocation Hall of the University. Notwithstanding anything in any other law for the time being in force, no educational institution beyond the limit shall be associated with or admitted to the privileges of the University and no educational institution within that limit shall be associated in any way with or be admitted to any privileges of any other university incorporated by law in British India, etc., etc."

So that the position in this: that within an area of five miles of the Convocation Hall in Dacca, as soon as the Dacca University is started and begins to work, no matriculation schools, nor colleges affiliated to the Intermediate standard of any other University can hold these examinations. The Dacca University Act comes into force on or before the 1st July next. If that University is to open its classes at the beginning of the coming session (it must be generally remembered that the Session begins by the 1st of July) all intermediate classes and high schools within the Dacca University area will automatically lose their connection with the Calcutta University and the Dacca University as constituted will not be able to help them. That is a state of things which I am sure, no member of this House can contemplate with equanimity.

Now, this is one of the results of the modification introduced into the text of the Dacca University Act at the last moment when that Act was before the Indian Legislative Council and for that modification the old Government of Bengal was in no way responsible. But whoever might have been responsible for this change, the fact remains, as I have already pointed out, that unless due provision is made and effective steps be taken all high schools and intermediate colleges within the Dacca University area will practically have to close, and for that purpose this provision of Rs. 40,000 has been made, and I consider it to be very, very necessary. I have no doubt that the members of this House, in spite of the fact that some of them have brought amendments to the contrary, will, after consideration, see that it will not be wise for them to press their amendments. When these amendments are pressed I shall go into further details, and will I hope have no difficulty in convincing them of the necessity for this provision.

The provision of Rs. 9,00,000 to the Dacca University includes a capital grant of Rs. 4,00,000 for buildings and Rs. 5,00,000 for maintenance. I shall deal with these two items in connection with the amendments, the House will have to consider—I trust they may not have to consider them—but I may mention that the authorities of the Dacca University demanded Rs. 15¾ lakhs for capital expenditure, but Government have been able to give them only Rs. 4,00,000 and when I place the details, I am sure the House will see that Rs. 4,00,000 is the

bare minimum, perhaps something a little below the absolute minimum. There is also Rs. 5,00,000 for recurring expenditure I may mention that this is really a small sum. This House is aware that the Dacca University is going to absorb the Dacca College; the recurring expenses of the Dacca College alone including the Law College is about Rs. 2,00,000. The Dacca College including the Law College is going to be absorbed by the Dacca University so that we are only providing for a recurring expenditure of Rs. 3,00,000.

I would draw the attention of the House to the fact, that the Dacca University is going to be a unitary and residential university. It is obligatory to have three halls, where students will reside and being a residential university, it is necessary that there will be a large number of professors, readers and lecturers who will also be resident. It stands to reason that in a residential university expenses will necessarily be higher than those of an examining university. The additional provision of Rs. 3,00,000 for recurring expenditure is not much, when you have to provide for three halls, or perhaps more.

Gentlemen, the Dacca University authorities demanded a minimum of Rs. 7,50,000 a year but we have been able to provide only Rs. 5,00,000. After examining the figures very carefully we have come to the conclusion that this figure is barely enough.

I may mention that the selection board for the appointment of the staff included the Hon'ble President, Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, the Director of Public Instruction, and the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University. The Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University was perfectly satisfied with the selections made, there was no dissent, all agreed that the staff were employed on salaries which were not excessive but were proper and legitimate I lay special emphasis on this because I have heard it stated by one or two members that the Dacca University is doing an injustice to the Calcutta University. I have no doubt that this is really based on a misapprehension. I have not the slightest doubt that Sir Nilratan Sarkar, who was on the committee to represent the interests of the Calcutta University, would have been the first person to raise a voice of dissent, if the interests of the Calcutta University were not properly safeguarded on that board for he was on that board in his capacity as Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University.

Another point, which I would like to mention to the House, is that the Dacca University is constituted under an Act passed by the Government of India. So long as that Act remains in force, it is my duty to administer that Act as efficiently as I can, and I have no doubt that it is the duty and responsibility of members of this Council, who hold the purse strings of the nation to see that this Act does not remain a dead letter.

Another point is, that, so long as the Dacca University Act is on the Statute Book, it is our duty to find the money for its working; if we are not satisfied with the principles of that Act, we must take proper steps to have the Act repealed.

I regret to find that amongst some members of this House there are indications of a spirit of rivalry between the Dacca University and my *alma mater* the Calcutta University. I trust I have made this remark under a misapprehension. I trust that during the course of the debate this misapprehension will be removed. I consider it my duty to deal justly and fairly with regard to the adequate needs of the Calcutta University as also of the Dacca University, and I have no doubt that in this view the majority of the House will agree with me.

I hope and trust that every member of the House will rise superior to parochial or communal considerations and will work in the interests of the province as a whole, and I am sure my appeal will not fall on deaf ears. I may once again assure my friends, who are interested in the welfare of the Calcutta University, that I shall always try to do my best for my *alma mater*. But I trust at the same time that those, who are responsible for the administration of the Calcutta University, will in future be alive to the real interests of that university, and in submitting their schemes for financial and other help before the reformed government, I hope the authorities of the Calcutta University will realise that education is now a transferred subject, and the Education Minister, whatever his personal views may be, has to guide himself by public opinion as expressed through the representatives of the people within the four walls of this house. I have perhaps taken more of the time of the Council than I originally intended on the question of the Dacca and Calcutta Universities in the hope that these preliminary remarks will shorten the discussion on the subject at a subsequent stage as I find there are a number of amendments on the subjects.

Now, Sir, if the members of this House will again turn to page 93 of the white book they will find the remaining four minor heads, viz. Secondary, Primary, Special and General Expenditure. I do not propose to deal with these items at length; there are no amendments relating to them, and this, I take it, indicates that the members of this House are willing to accept the proposals relating to them. Further, the Education budget as a whole has been discussed at length. I do not think any useful purpose will be served by any detailed examination of these items.

You will find at page 93—at the middle of the page—that an increase has been provided for; that increase is mainly due to an increase in the salaries of the Indian Educational Service men and of the Provincial Educational Service men.

I need not trouble the Council about primary education. That point has been discussed very fully.

Turning to "D—Special," at page 97, you will find that there is a decrease of Rs. 6,75,000, which is due to the transfer of the Calcutta School of Art and various other Government technical schools from the control of the Education Department to that of the Department of Agriculture and Industries. These are some of the important items, and, as I have taken your time at some length, I do not desire to trouble you with further details. There is one item which I would like to refer to. That item is at page 102. There is a lump sum provision for the reorganisation of the Subordinate Educational Service, viz., Rs. 3,50,000. The members of this Council are perhaps aware that a committee consisting of some members of the old Council and others examined this question; but before that committee finished its examination they sent up Rs. 3,50,000 as the proper figure, and the Budget was prepared on that basis. A printed copy of the committee's report is not yet before me, but I rather apprehend that the sum provided may not be enough, and it may be necessary for me to come up before this Council, again when I and my department have had time to go into the matter carefully.

I move "that a sum of Rs. 1,06,32,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '31—Education' (excluding European education)."

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: May I have some information as to how the provision in the Budget for primary education is proposed to be distributed?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: Perhaps my friend, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, was not here when I explained the position during the general debate. We have Rs. 31,00,000 and odd there, and the provision is Rs. 8,00,000 and odd more than what we spent last year. This Rs. 1,00,000 is an extra provision, for which there was no scheme ready. Technically the Finance Department could have objected to this provision for Rs. 1,00,000 as there was no definite scheme ready, but they did not object.

The PRESIDENT: The next item stands in the name of Dr. A. Suhrawardy; but he is absent, and so the motion fails.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: May I have the permission of the Council to move the amendment standing in the name of Dr. Suhrawardy?

The PRESIDENT: Practically, it comes to this: Mr. Ghose is asking my permission to move a motion without notice. There is this to be said in favour of it, that it takes nobody by surprise, because the motion was on the agenda in another member's name; but I would still like to know the sense of the Council. The question is what practice

should be followed, and I would therefore like to know whether the Council is in favour of the leave being given.

The motion whether Mr. D. C. Ghose should be permitted to move the amendment was then put and agreed to.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE moved "that the demand for Rs. 9,00,000 to the Dacca University be reduced to Rs. 6,00,000."

It will appear from the details given in the Budget estimate at page 91, that of the total sum, which the Hon'ble Minister asks from the Council under the head "Education," the expenditure in connection with University education forms an important part: that expenditure, as given in the Budget estimate, amounts to Rs. 10,68,000. Of this sum it appears that no less than Rs. 9,00,000 goes to the Dacca University. Before I criticise this grant, I should like to say that I am not an enemy of the Dacca University. On the contrary, I honestly think that a residential university of the type which is contemplated under the Dacca University Act, is entitled to full and unqualified support from us. But, at the same time, we have to bear in mind that we in the Council are somewhat in the position of a judge and we should impartially consider the claims of the universities that are under our control.

Now, the first ground upon which I base my criticism about the grant of Rs. 9,00,000 for the Dacca University is that sufficient information has not been placed at our disposal to justify us in acceding to this demand. In the first place, we do not know the kind of studies upon which the authorities of the Dacca University are going to lay emphasis. If they are only keen to duplicate what the Calcutta University now teaches, then I am afraid there would not be much enthusiasm for such studies. The great, I might almost say the universal demand now is for vocational training; and, if the authorities of the Dacca University will take up agricultural or technological education and make provision for such studies, I do not think there will be a single voice in this Council which will oppose the grant of sufficient money. But as I have said we do not know the programme of work of the Dacca University.

In the second place, although we are asked to sanction a grant of Rs. 9,00,000 to the Dacca University, we are not given any idea of the annual recurring expenditure of the University for which we shall have to find money year by year. We do not know how much of the Rs. 9,00,000 is required for the purpose of the administration of the University and how much will be required for the providing of education. We do not know the conditions of service upon which professors of the University are being or are going to be employed; we do not know the initial salaries that they are going to get; we do not know either their grades, the period for which they are going to be employed, and, most important of all, the

person who is signing the contracts which are being or are going to be entered into between the University and the members of the teaching staff. If we had these information, I submit, we would have got some idea of the annual recurring expenditure for which this Council would be asked to provide money year by year. I cannot help thinking that the method in which money is being asked for the Dacca University is hardly fair to this Council. Is it expected that this Council, without the slightest idea of the annual recurring expenditure of the Dacca University, will vote whatever sums of money that the new Vice-Chancellor demands? We have before us not an iota of fact which will give us any indication of the annual demand with regard to the Dacca University. I do not know if the members of this Council are aware that the Dacca University Act is not in force. It is understood that the work of the University will begin on the 1st July. It appears that the money which we are asked to grant will be required for nine months. If money on this scale were required next year, we would have to provide Rs. 12,00,000 for the Dacca University in subsequent years. The question is whether we are prepared to grant such large sums of money to the Dacca University, when we know that its jurisdiction is nothing compared with the jurisdiction of the Calcutta University, and further that it is concerned only with studies required for the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and of Bachelor of Science; in other words the Dacca University is not concerned, as the Calcutta University at present is, with studies for the Intermediate and Matriculation Examinations. It may be pointed out that there is a large amount of money earmarked for the Dacca University, and that therefore the Council is not justified in criticising the manner in which it is spent But I submit that, if there is any money earmarked for the Dacca University, it is intended for capital expenditure; and I submit also that it is opposed to the elementary principles of sound finance, to divert money intended for capital expenditure to purposes for which annual provision will be necessary. I think, therefore, that the House ought to refuse this large grant to the Dacca University, first, on the ground that there is a heavy deficit this year, and secondly, that we are not able to render proper financial assistance to the Calcutta University.

The PRESIDENT: The next amendment is of the same kind and I call upon Professor Satish Chandra Mukherji to move it before further discussion takes place.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI moved "that the demand of Rs. 9,00,000 to the Dacca University be reduced by Rs. 7,00,000.

In moving this amendment I wish to make only one observation at the very outset, that I am no enemy or opponent of the Dacca University. It would be preposterous for one, who has been an educationist for over a quarter of a century, to throw any obstacle in the path of any

educational institution, much more one which is going to be utilise as, and which is expected to be, a model university, a centre of light ar learning. If I have moved this amendment, I have simply bee prompted by a sense of duty; nothing but a sense of duty would hav prompted me to move such an amendment.

The Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education has already told that under the head "University" we have a provision of Rs. 10,68,00 Of this, only—and I lay some emphasis on the word "only"- Rs. 1,28,000 goes to the Calcutta University; and I may take th opportunity of stating to the House that this is no new grant, no ext grant, but simply the redemption of a pledge given by the Governme of India; it is simply redeeming a pledge, and the details are given page 38 of the Budget. I need not take up your time on that. Th leaves Rs. 9,40,000 for the Dacca University and the Hon'ble Minist has already told us that Rs. 40,000 goes towards the Dacca Univers Intermediate Board and I have not touched it. That leaves Rs. 9,00,0 for the Dacca Univesity. My friend, who preceded me, has alread stated that, so far as the two budget books are concerned, no details ha been given there, but I am exceedingly thankful to Mr. Hornell f giving me as much information as I wanted; and it was my privile and pleasure to have first-hand information from Mr. Hartog, the Vic Chancellor of the Dacca University, who happened to be here yeste day and whom I find in the visitors' gallery this afternoon. It on shows very naturally how far he is interested in the welfare of his ow University. Of this Rs. 9,00,000, roughly speaking, Rs. 5,00,000 for maintenance and Rs. 4,00,000 for capital expenditure; and I a told that, if Rs. 5,00,000 be not quite sufficient to meet the recurrin expenses this year, there may be a cut into the Rs. 4,00,000 that is co templated to be sent on capital expenditure. Besides, at page 63 of t Budget, there is another provision for Rs. 2,00,000 for construction buildings for Intermediate Colleges, which will come up t the voting of this Council later on. Now, this Counc if I understand aright, has no right to interfere with t detailed administration of an University. I quite admit that; but the trusted custodians of public funds this Council has a perfect rig to know how this money is going to be spent. I am told that th University expects to start with 1,500 students, and the idea is to ha about 100 men in order to provide for 1,500 students, *i.e.*, one for eve fifteen. These 100 men will be placed under four classes—Professo Readers, Lecturers and Assistants. The Professors will begin Rs. 600, rising to Rs. 1,800; Readers from Rs. 400 to Rs. 1,20 Lecturers from Rs. 250 to Rs. 400; and Assistants to begin wi Rs. 125; and, of course, if in the course of two or three years the Dac University gets 3,000 students, the staff will be correspondingl increased and made 200.

Now, it raises to my mind three very important issues The first issue is, are we (the Council) going to endorse this heavy scale of expenditure for doing a piece of work practically the kind of which is being done by the Calcutta University at a much less expenditure, though the Calcutta University has been seriously charged with extravagance. Now, what are the facts? One Mr Haridas Bhattacharji, who was getting Rs. 300 a month in the Calcutta University, has been appointed by Mr. Hartog on Rs. 500, rising to Rs. 1,200; one Mr. Satyendra Nath Basu, who was working in the Calcutta University for Rs. 250 a month, has been appointed by Mr Hartog on Rs 400 rising to Rs 1,200; one Mr Nalini Mohan Bose who was getting Rs. 250 in the Calcutta University, has been appointed by Mr. Hartog in the Dacca University on Rs 400, rising to Rs. 1,200; one Dr. Jnanendra Nath Ghosh, who is a Research scholar in England and provided with Rs. 1,200 from the Palit Fund and is getting a study leave allowance of Rs. 100 in England, one who was working for Rs. 250 and gave an undertaking that he would serve for three years in the Calcutta University, has been given a promise to be appointed in the Dacca University on Rs 1,000, rising to Rs. 1,800. [Here Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur interrupted and enquired about the salary of Sir P C. Roy: the speaker replied he was coming to it later on.] One Dr. Ramesh Chandra Majumdar, who was getting Rs. 450 in the Calcutta University with an extra allowance of Rs. 100 for extra work has been offered an appointment on Rs 600 rising to Rs. 1,800.

Now, in this Calcutta University, we have to-day men like Dr. Stephen, Dr. Cullis, Dr. Bhandarkar, Sir P C. Roy, Professor Raman men of the highest academic eminence and of European educational reputation. Dr. Stephen is getting Rs. 750 a month, Dr. Cullis, Rs. 1,300; Dr. Bhandarkar, Rs. 1,250, Sir P. C Roy, Rs 800 to Rs. 1,000; Professor Raman Rs 800 to Rs. 1,000, and there are six Sir Rash Behari Ghosh's Chairs, each drawing Rs 600 a month, and they are all men of the highest academic distinctions, viz.—

Dr. P. C. Mitter, Ph.D. (Berlin).

Dr. D. M. Bose, Ph.D. (Berlin).

Dr. H. K. Sen, D.Sc. (London).

Dr. S. P. Agarua, Ph.D. (Berlin).

Dr. P. N. Ghosh, Ph.D. (Calcutta).

Dr. S. K. Banarji, D.Sc. (Calcutta).

Now, as I have told you, are we going to endorse this heavy scale of expenditure for doing a similar piece of work which is being done by the Calcutta University? I am told that, unless a very good salary

is paid, it is impossible to draw men of the Indian Educational Servi type; and how is it that the Calcutta University, which is coming i for such a heavy piece of criticism, has been able to secure men of tl highest distinction?

Maulvi FAZL-UL HAQ: I rise to a point of order. Is my frien in order in comparing the salaries paid by the Calcutta Universit with those paid by the Dacca University?

The PRESIDENT: I think he is in order.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: The second point that the questio raises is—What will be the effect of this on the Calcutta Un versity? I think this is bound to wreck the University here Surely this will lead to a most unhealthy competition between the tw sister universities. In an informal conversation with the Hon'bl Minister in charge of Education, I said in a jocular way that the Minis ter had now two daughters to maintain. And what was he going t do? Was he going to bedeck one with most precious jewellry and t leave the other in rags and tatters? The Minister in charge said t me smilingly that so far as things went at present he had only on daughter.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER : I rise to a point of explanation Sir, I think the member is under a misapprehension.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: If the Hon'ble Minister thinks I am in any way misrepresenting him, I withdraw unreservedly

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER : I did not say that the membe was intentionally misrepresenting me. I said that he was under a misapprehension as regards what I said.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I rise to a point of order Sir, and it is whether Ministers should hold private conversations wit members at all?

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I said an informal conversation There is a good deal of difference between a private conver sation and an informal conversation. If it were a private conversa tion, I would not have mentioned it in the Council.

The third issue that it raises is—Are we as Councillors justified i spending so much money on one particular kind of education, viz. pure arts and science education at the expense of primary education vocational and technological education? Within the last ten years great revolution has taken place in our ideas of education. The angl

of vision has completely changed. The cry has gone forth from the country that what the country needs to-day is not so much pure arts and science education, but a kind of education which will befit the nation to fight the battle of life and to enable thousands and thousands of our young men to earn an honest living. Sir, this year we have been asked for Rs. 5,00,000 for recurring expenditure, and I am told that in the next year it will be Rs. 7,00,000; and I am further told that in two or three years it will be Rs. 11,00,000, if not more. I think this is the time when this House should take the matter into serious consideration as to whether we are going to allow expenditure which will land us into serious difficulties in the near future. I have not the least objection to help being granted to the Dacca University; but is it asking too much to reduce the recurring expenditure by one lakh and to reduce the capital expenditure by another lakh? I have not asked for anything more. The Dacca University needs money, but the other University also needs money. I do not know whether the members of this Council have noticed in to-day's *Statesman* an editorial paragraph where special emphasis has been laid on the needs of this University. If I may be permitted to do so, I shall read just a few words: "More money is needed for the development of teaching work in accordance with the recommendations of the Calcutta University Commission. For salaries of the postgraduate staff a grant of Rs. 1,25,000 must be made if Calcutta is to hold its own in competition with Dacca. Rs. 10,00,000 is needed for the extension of technological studies as recommended by the Calcutta Commission and in this matter State aid will go hand in hand with the splendid private munificence by which the University has been assisted. The Calcutta University, it need hardly be said, has no hesitation in asking for the Government grants, to which it is fairly entitled."

Sir, the claims of the Calcutta University have been brushed aside. And why? Simply on the ground that it did not approach the Government of Bengal in due time. We know it very well that the Calcutta University was all along expecting money from the Imperial Government because it was under that Government. That is the reason why the Calcutta University did not appeal and did not approach the Government of Bengal with any definite request for financial help. Sir, is a great institution to be brought to a state of collapse because of a technical defect? Can we not have an assurance from the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education who said over and over again that the Calcutta University was his *alma mater*, and I appeal to him in all earnestness that he, as Minister responsible for Education———

Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED: I rise to a point of order. It is not the Calcutta University that we are discussing, but the Dacca University.

The PRESIDENT: I think the member is quite in order.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: It is perfectly plain that, if we ca make any saving, the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Education ma in future make some provision for the Calcutta University. That is th reason why I was earnestly appealing to him, as there might be possibility of a supplementary budget. It was only an appeal, and do not think I was out of order.

The PRESIDENT: I have already ruled that you are in order.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I have finished, and I do hope that th House, in deciding this question will not be guided by pure feelings o sentiments, but take into their serious consideration whether it is reaso able or unreasonable to ask for a simple reduction of grant of Rs. 2,00,00 which will in no way hurt the Dacca University.

The PRESIDENT: The amendment by Mr. D. C. Ghose and th one moved by Professor Satish Chandra Mukherji may be convenientl debated together, and I ask Khan Bahadur Nawabzada Khwaj Muhammad Afzal, Khan Bahadur to address the Council.

Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: I beg to oppose th motions brought forward for curtailing the grants to the Dacca Uni versity. Professor Satish Chandra Mukherji is proposing to reduc the expenditure on the Dacca University by Rs. 2,00,000, while my frien Mr. D. C. Ghose, who has taken up the place of Dr. Suhrawardy, in h absence, has gone one step further and wants to reduce it by Rs. 3,00,000

In my general remarks on the Budget, Sir, I have made it abundant ly clear that the grant to the Dacca University is no gift, but is what, o rather less than, what Government is morally bound to give to that insti tution. I believe and I do believe that the present allotment fall far short of the amount contributed by the Government of Indi annually for some years specifically for the Dacca University.

The area of the land occupied by the University is about one squar mile. The buildings, though large, need considerable alterations to University purposes, and fresh hostels for students are urgently necessary if the University is to perform satisfactorily as contemplated, its functions as a residential University. The objects of the Calcutta University Commission in regard to the Dacca University were set out in the Report. Volume 4, page 214. The Government of India desired that Dacca should have a model university, of a type new to the Presidency and to India. There are no adequate laboratories. A new Physical Laboratory is urgently needed and the Library of the Dacca College must be greatly increased to provide for the needs of the University. There are to be over 100 teachers on the staff, and there is house accommodation only for 40 including executive officers, clerks, etc.

The Dacca University was promised by Lord Hardinge in 1912 in response to a request from the Muhammadan community. Lord Hardinge made it clear that the University was to be a university not for

one community alone, but for all; and since that time it has been decided that alongside the Department of Islamic studies, there will be a Department of Sanskritic studies, so that the University may not be in any way one-sided. But there is in this question an important factor to be considered by the Muhammadan community. At the last census 52 per cent. of the total population in Bengal were Muhammadans. Our Hon'ble colleague, Mr. Hornell, in his Quinquennial Review for 1916-17, said that in the non-professional colleges there were only 8·8 per cent. Muhammadans and in the professional colleges only 6·8 per cent. No one in this Chamber is unaware of the fact that the number of fully trained University men in this Presidency required to fill posts of responsibility is still not very enviable. The Dacca University will have a Moslem Hall, which will give special facilities to Muhammadan students. The University will encourage the attendance of Muhammadan students. It will help to redress the balance at present so unequal between the two sections of the community. I cannot understand how any Muhammadan member of this Council can oppose the grant judged as necessary to the establishment of the Dacca University on an adequate scale. What is the use of establishing a university that would be regarded as second rate. Would that be a help to the Muhammadans, or a disadvantage? It would have been better to have no university rather than an inefficient one in Dacca, for a Dacca degree should be a help and not a handicap to the Dacca graduates. The University will not be large, but it ought to be adequate and efficient, and you cannot get an efficient staff without adequate salaries. Sir, I understand that one of reasons of the capital expenditure is the provision of a Jaganath Hall, which will provide facilities mainly to Hindu students. The interests of Hindu students are, therefore, not being overlooked. To us in Eastern Bengal, the historic city of Dacca, the second capital of the province, is a centre to which we should look for intellectual stimulus. I believe that by its very existence in their midst, the Dacca University will stir up the intellectual ambitions of the young Muhammadans of the eastern districts; I believe, it will exert a powerful influence on their advancement; it will offer a new kind of training and new opportunities to them along with their brothers of other communities; it will give an impetus to the spirit of research in the domain of Indian History and Archæology, for which there is a considerable field in Eastern Bengal. I suggest, Sir, that it will be a gross breach of faith for this Chamber now to deny what the Government of India promised and to cripple the new University at its very start. Calcutta has in its midst some 25 colleges, including the Presidency College, the Sanskrit College the Medical College, the Sibpore College of Engineering, maintained by Government, many hostels provided by Government, many colleges with grants from Government. The University is largely supported by examination fees, a source of revenue which will be comparatively trifling at Dacca, and it has besides its Law College a great organisation for

Postgraduate teaching. According to a statement recently issued the were over 200 members on the Postgraduate teaching staff. Can it b that anybody who is a member of that staff grudges Dacca its relativel small beginnings. I feel sure that the University of Calcutta whose Vice Chancellor has served on the Advisory Committee for the first appoin ments in Dacca, cannot feel any such jealousy, but that it will welcom the creation of a new sister university which cannot in any sense b regarded as a rival. Sir, we wish our Universities in India to b regarded as the equals of Universities in other parts of the world. Th University of Calcutta is already large and powerful. No doubt it coul do more with more money. I shall not oppose a grant to the Universit of Calcutta; rather I shall give it whole-hearted support when the tim comes; but it is an act of common justice to the inhabitants of Easter Bengal and to the Muhammadans of the whole province to set up the ne University on a worthy scale.

It will be within the memory of many members of this House that laying the foundation-stone of the Dacca College in 1905, Lord Curzo referred to my fellow-countrymen, the extraordinarily intelligent gentl men of Vikrampur, and spoke of the benefits they were going to deriv from the Dacca College, and that, in 1912, Lord Hardinge referred to th benefits my co-religionists, who are numerically predominant in that par of the country but are lagging behind in education, were likely to deriv from the proposed Dacca University. My learned friends are trying t neutralise the effects of those generous promises and are practicall encouraging the Government to commit a breach of faith towards th people of East Bengal.

At a time when so many things are being said by all and sundr about education and educational institutions, it is, to say the least o it, extremely unfortunate that a learned Professor and a learned Docto should bring forward proposals calculated to hamper the progress o education of a very high order.

I am glad to be able to think that all are not as unsympathetic toward Eastern Bengal as my learned friends. For, witness what the represen tative and the executive head of the Calcutta University, I mean Si Nilratan Sarkar, said in the Bengal Council on the 7th of August last He said: "I desire to offer my sincerest congratulations to Your Excel lency's Government on the practical accomplishment of the long-pendin scheme of a teaching and residential University at Dacca for which substantial allotment has been made in the Budget for the presen year. There is an almost unlimited scope for expansion of faculties fo higher education in the country. We all hope that the foundation of second University in Bengal will help the diffusion of knowledge to th widest possible extent in the Presidency. I trust that in addition t the Faculties of Arts, Science and Law, the Dacca University will hav the Faculties of Medicine and Agriculture in the near future."

And only the other day His Excellency the Governor, in his speech o the Dacca College boys, said in part: "We are on the point of bringing into existence at Dacca a University which will be a national University in the truest meaning of the words. . . . I look forward to seeing a great centre of Sanskritic learning springing up in the new Dacca University under the guidance of that eminent Sanskrit scholar, Mahamahopadhyaya Hara Prosad Sastri. I likewise look forward to seeing the establishment here of a great centre of Islamic studies . . . I ask you in all sincerity to give to Mr. Hartog, an educationist of high repute in Europe, and to his colleagues, your wholehearted assistance in bringing this long-delayed scheme into existence. In this way you can render great and lasting service to your Motherland."

Sir, I find myself unable to improve upon this eloquent appeal of His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay, and I, therefore, trust that the grant to the Dacca University will be voted without a division.

Khan Bahadur KHWAJA MOHAMED AZAM: I rise to oppose this motion, and I trust and hope the Council will reject it by an overwhelming majority.

The Dacca University is now a piece of old history.

The partition of Bengal, among other things, gave an impetus to higher education in Eastern Bengal districts and specially Dacca, and, when it was modified, we were assured that the educational progress would be maintained, and the Dacca University was promised to us. Since then the embryo proposal and scheme was hatched and considered and it has only recently matured, and action is now being taken to give effect to it.

Since the promise was made, the Patna University considered and conceived much later, was established, and is now a working institution, whereas the Dacca University is still under construction. This University is one where special provision has been made for Islamic studies, and as such is dear to all Mussalmans, and this University will greatly foster and encourage high education on sound lines for Bengal students in general and Eastern Bengal students in particular. The Calcutta University has no doubt done good and excellent work in the past, but I am afraid it is not equal to cope with the present demands of education, and it is admittedly capable of much improvement.

I do not claim perfection for the Dacca University, but it is certainly a great improvement on the old one, and we have high hopes about it and it would not be wise to throw to the winds those hopes.

Eastern Bengal supplies the bulk of Bengal income and we do not grudge that the bulk of its expenditure is swallowed by West Bengal, and I cannot understand why West Bengal people should grudge us a pittance which has been long overdue and should have been given to us years back. I cannot also understand the jealousy of Calcutta University men for Dacca.

The establishment of Dacca University will not certainly affect the and Calcutta can as long as it likes enjoy the luxury of having more pr fessors than students or professors without students. We do not want question its patronage or charity.

Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: It is to be very mu regretted that so much oratory, so much eloquence and so much pub time are being spent over such a simple question as this, viz., the all ment of Rs. 9,00,000 for the Dacca University. Sir, to-day's procee ings of the Council seem to be characterised by a good deal of doubt abo the propriety of having a University at Dacca, of the type which the la contemplates. I submit that it is too late in the day to discuss th question. When the Dacca University Bill was before the Indian Leg lature, I think that was the time to discuss the matter thoroughly an efficiently and when the principle was accepted, the country did not rai its voice of protest against the creation of the University. On the co trary, a section of the public—a very influential and strong section of th public—demanded—I mean our Muhammadan co-religionists of Easte Bengal—and the Government saw the propriety of having a new type university not exactly on the lines of the Calcutta University. But f funds this Dacca University would have been an accomplished fact som years ago. Now, Sir, this proposal seems to me to be something like th proposal to strangle an infant. Now the Dacca University has not y been fully constituted. My friend, Mr. D. C. Ghose, said that the A has not come into force. It has not; but at the same time, in a manne it has. The Vice-Chancellor, who is to organise the University, has bee appointed. I do not see any objection to the presence of Mr. Hartog i the visitors' gallery. He is the man who is properly interested in th question; and if anybody has any right to be here, it is Mr. Hartog. No Sir, what are we going to do? The Hon'ble the Minister in charge o Education has provided a certain sum of money for the Dacca Universit That is all. My friend, Professor Satish Chandra Mukherji, who evaden ly seems to be a great orator, has collected facts and figures to show tha Lecturers and Readers and Professors are being appointed on pay, whic is higher than that given to such men by the Calcutta University. I d not think that this Council at this stage is competent to go into that que tion.

With regard to the grant, it is quite inadequate. The Dacca Un versity, to be fully started on its career, requires more money, and thi year the Council has been asked to vote only Rs. 9,00,000. Wit regard to the matter of Rs. 40,000, I think it is an absolute necessity and the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Education explained it to th Council, that without some such Board the University could not hav a start. There is a chance of collision and confusion, and also a chanc of breakdown, as the Director of Public Instruction informs me.

With regard to the ignorance of the Council as to the course of tudy, the University will prescribe it, and this ignorance on the part f the Council, is no argument against voting the grant. The Univer- ity is not yet formed, and, if members are anxious to study its con- titution, there are the reports, and they are welcome to study them. f course public criticism is always welcome, and, if any new lines can e suggested, I am sure Mr. Hartog and the University authorities of acca will be only too glad to accept suggestions and to alter the course f studies. It has been said that it would have been much better to ave a University something on the lines of a Technological Institute. submit it is desirable to have a Technological University, but at the ime time I would draw the attention of the Council to the Report of the alcutta University Commission, which was presided over by no less person than Sir Michael Sadler. He recommended that it was neces- ry, and the time was not very far when, every important town should ave its own university, as in England and Scotland; and so I think we ould have as many universities as the country demands, to meet the quirements of education. But, Sir, that is not the question before . The question is this—the Dacca University Act has been passed. is the law of the land, and the Government has already given it a art by appointing a Vice-Chancellor, and I think a Board has also en constituted. There are also the houses—money only is required w. and as education has been made a transferred subject, it has devol- d upon us—the members of the Provincial Council—to provide some oney for it, and the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Education has en called upon to provide in the present year's Budget not the full nount, but a portion of it required by Mr. Hartog or the Director of ublic Instruction, who is vitally interested in the matter and who is ways consulted in the matter. That is all that we have got to do, and e money we want is not adequate, and for the present Rs. 5,00,000 or s. 4,00,000 for capital expenditure and for meeting recurring expendi- re is not a very large amount, and so the amount which has been pro- ded for in the Budget is inadequate, and I think this Council ought t to vote out the provision made in the Budget. So I strongly oppose e amendment for reducing the amount which has been provided for the Budget.

The PRESIDENT: I think I ought to tell the Council that I have t 10 or 11 more speakers on the list, and unless members try to very brief in their remarks it will be impossible to finish the debate ithin the time prescribed.

Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI: I beg to say a few words which are ost essential about the Dacca University. After the annulment of e partition of Bengal, Lord Hardinge, in order to pacify their out- ged feelings, promised the Dacca University to the Muhammadans, ho were used as mere buffers to break the waves of anti-Government

agitation during the partition days. Though it was originally mised as a concession to the Muhammadans alone, Lord Hardinge the very outset, announced that the University was to be a univer for all alike, and this is an essential feature of its constitution as vided in the University Act of 1920. The promise was made as back as 1912, but the task of formulating definite plans for the rede tion of the pledge was relegated to the limbo of neglect for reasons known to the Government.

Professor Satish Chandra Mukherji, in moving his amendment, that the University is only the outcome of the redemption of a ple given by Lord Hardinge. The remark is quite true. I know of other virtue in a Government than their readiness to redeem their p ges. At the same time I must tell Mr. Mukherji that Lord Hardi made the promise when he was highly impressed with the necessity establishing a university at Dacca and not before. It is gener argued that the world-wide war is the cause of this unusual delay. I say, Sir, that the Patna University conceived on a much later d was brought into being at a time when the entire resources of the w were being tapped in order to ensure victory for the Allies. So I say with every justification that a grave injustice has been done to people of East Bengal by delaying the University so long.

Sir, whether there was any promise or not, there is no denying fact that there is a crying necessity for the establishment of a uni sity at Dacca. The Sadler Commission stated that even if the Gov ment had not promised a university for Dacca, they would themsel have recommended its immediate or early establishment as part of t general policy of university organisation. The congestion of the cutta University is due to the fact that East Bengal students prep derate in it. I must also say that a vast majority of the very best s dents in the Calcutta University hail from East Bengal. These stude when the Dacca University is established, will have ample opportunit to do original and research work under the fostering care of the Da University.

Some gentlemen argue that the University will benefit the Muha madans alone. Sir, instead of putting forth any other argument, would only refer them to the University Act of 1920, where they w find writ large in letters of gold that the University will be a univers for all alike. Now assuming for argument's sake, although it is no fact, that the Muhammadans will be benefited more than anybody e by the Dacca University, can't I enquire of my friends whether it not their duty to see the Muhammadans well educated and their ba wardness in education removed for the uplift and betterment of t Motherland?

Sir, now coming to the amendments proposing reduction to t Dacca University grants, I must frankly say that I am sincerely sor

hat the learned movers of the amendments—one of whom is a professor n the Education Department—are now opposing grants to an educational nstitution, while they have allowed the huge sum of Rs. 16,01,000 for he Excise Department to go wholly unchallenged. I also beg leave to ay at the very outset, without feigning any sort of conventionality, that he sum allotted to the Dacca University is ludicrously low. The Nathan Committee recommended, besides capital grants, a recurring grant of Rs. 12,00,000. So my learned friends will see very clearly that the sum ranted is lower by full Rs. 3,00,000 than the sum recommended by the Nathan Committee, which, in itself, was a very modest figure. When I ook to the curricula of the Dacca University I wonder how the Vice-hancellor will manage the huge affair with such a paltry sum. The Dacca University will be a residential university—an Indian University f a new type based on the best universities of Europe and America.

Mr. Mukherji has compared the Dacca University with the Calcutta University. Sir, I have the honour to tell him that, had it been an bject copy of the circus which is being run in College Square with three hows a day, my friends would have every satisfaction in grumbling at he grant, because that would be an act of perpetuating an ever-increasing nomaly.

Sir, at least there is one other fundamental aspect, in which the Dacca University will differ from the Calcutta one, namely, it will not e a sort of famine relief work. What I precisely mean by famine elief work is this. During famines huge projects at enormous cost, hich would not be contemplated even in normal times, are undertaken y Government in order to give work to the famine-stricken people. imilarly, the Calcutta University always create professorships and itorships to provide for the hot favourites of the one all-powerful person ho rules the destiny of the Calcutta University in these days. The taff of the Dacca University, on the other hand, will be selected from mongst the best possible available men both in India and abroad. So oney spent in this direction will not be money misspent, but money pent in the right direction. Besides the study of English, vernacular, slamic and Sanskrit languages and various scientific studies, a course f physical training will be prescribed for the alumni of the Dacca Uniersity. The benefits of physical training can never be over-estimated. Vithout it no education can be said to be perfect. No provision is made or this training in the curricula of the Calcutta and other Indian uniersities. The result was that, when recruitment was ordered for the alcutta University Corps, most of the applicants failed to satisfy the inimum requirements under the Army Regulations. When I was in e army, the English instructor who used to give us lessons in Swedish ill, very often told us: "You people (the Bengalis) require these ercises more than anybody else in the world." I never resented the mark, because he had every justification to say so. In short I may

safely say that there can be no sound mind in an unsound bc Another special feature of the Dacca University is that it will also] vide agricultural and some other vocational education. In this resp also it will be a unique university in India. Another special featur the University, as recommended by the Nathan Committee, will be facilities which it will afford to the poor students in the shape of fees.

Sir, I believe I have sufficiently proved that the sum allotted to Dacca University is already so frivolously low that it cannot admi any further retrenchment.

In conclusion, I would only read a paragraph from a note on Dacca University by Mr. P. J. Hartog, its Vice-Chancellor: "I hav say a final word on the question of finance. My estimates have b based on those furnished by the Calcutta University Commission revised by the Special Officer and the Director of Public Instruct They are, I think, reasonable, though I should have liked to be abl do more at the outset. The capital expenditure proposed for libr laboratories and residential accommodation is an absolute minimun the University is to have a fair chance of success."

It is really passing strange that the House which has vo Rs. 5,00,000 for one alms house should be loath to vote Rs. 9,00, for one great university with vast potentialities.

With these words I beg to oppose the motions.

Mr. H. A. STARK: The Dacca University, as things stand, lea us just one duty to perform, and that duty is to establish it on an adequ scale. Those who have argued against voting it a grant of Rs. 9,00,0 have alleged that there is a certain amount of extravagance in the Bud proposals and a comparison has been drawn between the expenditure Calcutta University and Dacca University. It seems to have been f gotten that, although technically self-contained and isolated institutio Presidency College, Sanskrit College, David Hare Training Colle Bengal Engineering College (Sibpur) and all other Government Colle in Bengal affiliated to the Calcutta University, are really as organic pa of the Calcutta University as will be the Jagannath Hall, the Mos Hall and the several departments of the Dacca University. Nor in consideration of the Calcutta University ought we to exclude the ma large hostels which have been built for Government and aided colle in the city and even outside it. The Dacca University asks Rs. 9,00,000. Of this sum Rs. 1,75,000 is already what has been usua sanctioned for, and usually spent by, the Dacca College year after ye So that in point of fact it is only Rs. 7,25,000 above the present gr that is being requisitioned by the Dacca University. Now the all ments which we are prepared to make to Calcutta University Colle are Rs. 1,75,000 to the Sanskrit College; Rs. 2,60,000 to the Presiden College; Rs. 3,20,000 to the Bengal Engineering College. The to

.otted to these three colleges amounts to Rs. 7,50,000. We, therefore, e already expending upon three or four colleges nearly as much as we e asked to expend upon an entire University. Is that an excessive de- and? Why, our *guru*-training schools which train only primary school asters, are costing us Rs. 4,50,000, quite half of what is being asked r the Dacca University. Is it consistent that a Council which is pre- red to grant to the Ranchi Lunatic Asylum with its unproductive in- ates, a sum of Rs. 8,18,000, should refuse the expenditure of 1. 9,00,000 upon a university? Surely our perspective must be entire- out, if we spend Rs. 8,00,000 on the mentally defective, and refuse e lakh more for the education and culture of those who will help Ben- l to attain a larger measure of responsible government, who will ad- nce the commercial and economic prosperity of our province, and who ll be our successors in this Council.

As a graduate of the Calcutta University, I am naturally in great mpathy with those who want the Calcutta University to prosper. it I cannot agree with those who would argue that the Dacca Uni- rsity is not to get what it requires because the Calcutta University ow stands in need of more than she is receiving. I cannot agree with ose who make it a matter of complaint that certain lecturers of the lcutta University have been appointed to the Dacca University, and at on larger salaries. I ask: Is it to be our policy to see that aching will always be the poorest paid profession? Are we to expect at whole-time servants will be satisfied with the wages that they ceived as part-time servants? There are many who think that the lcutta University has paid its professors inadequately, and that she is set a bad standard. But to come back to our point; it must be oted that some of the men who have left the Calcutta University and ho have been appointed to the Dacca University are the very men ho were recommended to the Dacca University by the President of e Postgraduates Council himself. Are we to suppose from the com- aint, to which I have referred, that the Calcutta University deliber- ely does not want to take any intellectual share in founding a sister iversity. Would there not have been grounds for complaint if, with lcutta University men available, professorships and lecturerships d been given only to men of foreign universities? The Calcutta iversity has really nothing to regret because another university is ing founded in Bengal. For within a few years we shall find the acca University stimulating the Calcutta University and the Calcutta iversity stimulating the Dacca University, to the great benefit of th.

Is this the time for us to throttle university education? Let us member that recruitment to the higher services is to be indifferently England and in India. Ought it not be to be our aim, our ambition, produce scholars in our own universities who will be able to win the

positions attainable through the channel of open competition. Ought we not to speed up the supply of such men? By stinting money to the Dacca University, are we going to retard our own progress? Are we going to delay the introduction of complete self-government? My own feeling is that, if we are wise, we will concentrate on education; spend money on it liberally; get the best teachers available; and thereby speed up our preparedness for larger and larger measures of self-government. We ought to shorten the period of probation by strengthening our Universities and aiding that talent and promoting that culture which will enable our country to take her place in the British Empire. Give then, I say, give the Dacca University the money she requires with an open hand, regarding our grants to it as a sound remunerative investment and not as an ill-advised speculation. Have we forgotten that the Dacca University was pledged to the Muhammadans by Lord Hardinge himself, when he was at Dacca? Have we forgotten that it was offered as a salve to those who were hurt by the re-partition of Bengal in 1912? Have we forgotten that it was given as compensation to those who regarded that their interests had been sacrificed to the interests of others? Can we repudiate in this Council Chamber the promises given them—can we offer them a mimic University in pace of the genuine article? The demand is comparatively small. Not much more than a few Government colleges in Calcutta are costing; not much more than we are prepared to spend upon a Lunatic Asylum. And may I say that, had we the imagination, we would see in our sanction of the full grant a splendid opportunity for doing something beneficent for Bengal, and thus signalising the institution of this Legislative Chamber. It should be our pride and our high privilege to launch the bark of the Dacca University on smooth seas, under auspicious omens, her sails set to propitious winds.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur : The point at issue before the Council is the motion which suggests that the demand of Rs. 9,00,000 to the Dacca University be reduced to Rs. 7,00,000, and it is not necessary for us to discuss whether there has been a breach of faith and other things. The arrangement that has been made by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education is that Rs. 9,00,000 be appropriated by the Dacca University, whereas the contention of the mover is to reduce this amount to Rs. 7,00,000. As has been represented by Professor Satish Chandra Mukherji, it seems to me that the Dacca University will not suffer much by this reduction. If that is a fact, which the Hon'ble Minister is in a position to answer, and, if the Dacca University does not suffer much, it is a matter for consideration with this Council whether the Dacca University ought to be satisfied with Rs. 7,00,000 at present. Now if the Dacca University considers that this amount is insufficient for its purpose, the argument which should be advanced on behalf of the mover is that the Minister in charge has not taken into consideration the claims of the Calcutta University. Those who are trying their best to have a larger amount, and those who are satisfied with the

anagement of the Dacca University, are to answer that argument. My ntention is that the Minister in charge will take into consideration the aims of the Calcutta University, and, if it is a fact that the Calcutta niversity is in a tottering condition, is it not the duty of the Minister o look to the claims of that University? It is for the Minister to consider at this University was in charge of the Chancellorship of the overnor-General of India. If no claim was put forward previously, at is no consideration for the Minister to neglect the claims of the alcutta University. We ought not to neglect the claims of the Calcutta University and devote all the money to the Dacca University. his seems to be an error. Therefore, although I came to the Council ith an open mind, I was thoroughly convinced by the arguments of e mover that the claims of the Calcutta University ought to be onsidered. I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister whether he does not ink that it was an error on his part to neglect the just demand of the alcutta University. If the Calcutta University is in need of some oney, will it not be fair, will it not be just, to give it this modest m of Rs. 2,00,000? The Dacca University can very well manage with s. 7,00,000, though at the very beginning it will be an expensive ffair. If it is an expensive affair, then certainly Rs. 9,00,000 will not eet their purpose. They can go on with a small beginning and start University worthy of the name. The Minister has told us just now at this University will not be a body inclined to spend much and the hole of the Rs. 9,00,000 may not be spent by them during the year. I ppeal to the framers of the Budget and to the Minister whether they will ot consider that the maintenance charge ought not to be on the same level s an enthusiast desires.

With these few remarks I beg to support the motion.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I must confess that I feel t my duty to oppose the motion that has been moved. Nobody is in ore sympathy with the Calcutta University, which is my *alma mater*, an myself, and I know that the Calcutta University has also got very ood claims on the attention of the Hon'ble Minister. But I think e whole question has been discussed purely in a spirit of parochial ntipathy. The question is not as to what Calcutta should get. By ll means exert yourself to get as much as it is possible for your Uniersity to get. Why stand in the way of a new University that is eing ushered into being? Hindus and Moslems in Eastern Bengal nd Western Bengal have all one and the same interest, namely, advancement of learning to equip them in the great work of nation-building, and haracter-building. I have been in my younger days in the Presidency 'ollege, where professors used to come and go, and we used to pay our chooling-fees, but there was never the advantage of living with them nd that is a thing which I have always regretted. I think I spoke bout it to my friends over there, Mr. Bompas, about 14 years ago and

Mr. Swan, about 12 years ago. I do not envy their complexion nor their intelligence, but, if I get their sense of duty and discipline, then I shall see where I shall be in three months. The Dacca University is going to be a residential university of a new type altogether. There are the professors and men of the highest culture from England, who have come here to impart that thing which we do not get in our University—Character. I welcome that and I am prepared to spend all that is possible to spend for it. I am sorry that in our days what we got from the University was much less than what we should have got.

I hear Mr. Ghose say, "Hear, hear." Let him hear others with all the patience that he can command, and with the advantage of his intelligence I think he will be able to pick up many things as he grows older.

What is this question? This is a question of education. Has anybody here got the heart to say that we oppose it? The money spent on education—whether primary or secondary—is given by Government who is not particularly anxious to give it to us to throw it away and to say that we do not want it is an absurd idea. I am one of those who want larger sums given for primary education, but that is another matter.

This idea of taking away Rs. 2,00,000 from this grant and giving it to the Calcutta University is a puerile and quarrelsome idea, and it would not help the Calcutta University. And to those who have come forward with the claims of the Calcutta University, and who hold briefs for the Calcutta University, I say—How is it that the present Education Minister, who is one of those who got his training there in his younger days, is not kind to you? If you level that charge against him, then what is the answer? Are you men of the Calcutta University prepared to so shape your conduct in the management of your affairs that the people have more respect for you?

The PRESIDENT: It is now very near the time for adjournment. Are you likely to finish within five minutes?

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I shall not be able to finish within five minutes, but I shall try to be as short as possible.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: Short and sweet.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I have been asked by Mr. D. C. Ghose to be sweet. I wish I had his good looks and his sweet smiling face; but I am sorry that at this age I cannot claim something with which I have not been endowed by nature.

Then, as regards education. As I was just saying, is there any doubt that the first thing we want in this country is education? When the greatest nobleman who came to this country—Lord Ripon—left the shores of India and just before he started from Bombay, his first word

of advice was education, his next advice was education and his last word of advice to the Indians was education. Are we going to oppose anything that is going to help the cause of education and of higher education?

I do very well appreciate that by opening a university you create a form of intelligence and culture which ought to be welcomed by every East Bengal man. So far as the East Bengal Hindus and Muhammadans are concerned, we all stand on the same platform, for our common object is the advancement of learning and nothing else. Equipment of character to help us in nation-building is what we want, and there cannot be any question about that. In the earlier days, when there was the partition of Bengal about 14 or 15 years ago, I ventured to mutter out something to my great and illustrious *guru* — and no man can have a better *guru* that I felt that the partition was a good measure; and he asked me why I said so. I said that I found in it great possibilities of a new centre of thought and activity opened in Eastern Bengal, which would help particularly our Muhammadan fellow-countrymen to advance. My great *guru* told me that I must not say so; and I got muffled and I went on fighting, sitting at his feet, to have the partition set aside, and, to his greatest glory, it was done. The starting of a University there will give an impetus to the highest forms of education; and you will have more of these self-respecting young men—educated men—to go and tell our administrators that this is what we want and this is what we should not have. The days of *salaams* and these things will pass away, and the days of effective criticism will come. If you want to take the advice given by Lord Ripon you should go on with education—the highest forms of education. It is really a matter of good fortune to us that we have been able to secure the services of a man of such profound scholarship as Mr. Hartog. When he has condescended to open this University, should we not take this advantage, and should we say that we should take away Rs 2,00,000?

Then you are finding fault with your Minister for giving so much to the Dacca University. What did they want? They wanted Rs. 15,50,000 and they gave us details for capital expenditure. Out of this the Minister has given Rs. 4,00,000. They wanted Rs. 7,50,000 for recurring expenditure, and the Minister has given Rs. 5,00,000. Do you know what the Dacca College costs you, that you are fighting for this? There is no reason for you to fight. When you remember that the Calcutta University has not been given so much, that is a different quarrel, which is perfectly irrelevant to the matter. Professor S. C. Mukherji has said that the professors, who have gone to the Dacca University, have been given fabulous salaries——

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I never said "fabulous salaries."

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I withdraw the expression, but I stick to the sense of that, namely, that in place of Rs. 250, men have been offered Rs. 400 and in place of Rs. 400 men have been offered Rs. 600 rising to Rs. 1,800. I know the meaning of what he said. He and I, read together; and he must have learnt what I learnt, or he mislearnt what I did learn. That is not correct, and it is not the proper way of putting it. The lectures in the Calcutta University were only half-time or quarter-time men, and they used to get Rs. 200 or Rs. 250 or Rs. 400. When you take away men to Dacca as full-time professors, and readers you have got to pay them Rs. 400 or Rs. 600 to start with.

At this stage the Council adjourned.

The Council reassembled at 6-20 P.M.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I would take only a few minutes of your time. How is it that this thing has been taken up by the Hon'ble Minister this year, and these provisions have been made? We find that the University Commission unanimously recommended that the Dacca University should be started at once; and the language is that *there should be no further delay.* You probably know the names of those hon'ble gentlemen who sat on that Commission—Indians as well as Europeans In pursuance of that recommendation, they have started this work; the work has commenced; and as I have already told you, we have been lucky enough to secure such a capable man as Mr. Hartog for the Vice-Chancellorship, who has started this work. Are we now going to say that we take away Rs. 2,00,000 or Rs. 3,00,000 from this grant? In that case you cannot really start work according to the scale on which it has been taken up. I therefore think that there is no justification for anybody to say anything against the grant that has been made to the Dacca University, unless he is speaking from a point of parochial antipathy which should not be our guide at all. If the Calcutta University deserves, as I am sure she deserves, and I yield to none in my desire that she should get more money out of my hon'ble friend the Minister for Education, I am perfectly willing to join with some of my friends. But my friends are not right in saying that the Education Minister has not been kind enough to his own *alma mater.* His argument is that they did not come to him in proper time. I am one who is perfectly willing to concede that it is somewhat of a technical ground; but still I am sure that there is no doubt that the Calcutta University would get something, if they would make an attempt; and that the Education Minister would somehow find the money or at least a portion of it, because he has still that love and affection for the University to which he and I belonged. There is no doubt about it and that cannot be a ground for standing against this grant at all.

My friend, Professor S. C. Mukherji, had an informal talk with the Hon'ble the Minister and I am sure that in the course of that informal

and private talk he must have heard that the Hon'ble the Minister is anxious to help the Calcutta University. And I am also sure that my friend the Education Minister will try his level best to find money from other sources. I am not one of those like my friend, Professor S. C. Mukherji, who have private audience with the Hon'ble Members and the Hon'ble Ministers; but I think that my friend might try something in that particular line.

There is one other thing which I should like to say before I sit down, and it is this: there is a certain amount of misconception that this University at Dacca is going to be nothing but a repetition of the old folly of the Calcutta University—my friend has not said it in so many words. Well, he need not have that fear. I had that fear in my mind; and I can assure him that there is no room for that. I went up to Mr. Hartog and asked him about it. He said that it is possible —and in fact he has got that idea in his mind—that the University will be a vocational university, as time rolls on and as more funds come into his hands. Therefore, it is not going to be the same thing as the Calcutta University, nor will it commit the same follies as the Calcutta University has been committing for the last few years. [At this stage the bell rang.]. My time is up and nobody can tarry after his time is up and I must resume my seat.

Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: After the eloquent and potent appeal, which was made by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education, I thought that this amendment would be withdrawn. But I am glad that Dr. Suhrawardy was not present to move his amendment for that would have been the unkindest cut of all. (Several voices: "Hear, hear.") Dr. Suhrawardy represents a constituency which belongs to Eastern Bengal and he himself belongs to the Muhammadan community.

Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: I rise to a point of order.

The PRESIDENT: Suhrawardy is no longer the mover of the motion. Mr. D. C. Ghose was permitted to move it in the absence of Dr. Suhrawardy. It is his motion now.

Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: My humble submission is that I was simply saying that I was glad that Dr. Suhrawardy was absent and that Mr. D. C. Ghose moved the amendment which stood in his name. But Mr. D. C. Ghose found it very difficult to find what difference there was between the Dacca University and the Calcutta University. He himself admitted that the Dacca University was going to be a residential University and the difference was there, and it was a very material difference too. What we find in the university education is that the Calcutta University exercises some

amount of control over the school hours or the college hours of the school or college inmates; but that the University is not able to exercise any efficient control over the private hours of the students. We also find that, if the student does not prepare himself properly, it is because he either misspends his private hours or does not utilise them properly. If his health is injured, it is also for his indiscretion during the private hours, and probably he is living in an unhealthy house, or he is not mixing with proper companions, or on account of his environments he is not able to participate in games and other physical exercises which go to develop his constitution. So, this Dacca University, being a residential University, will be able to exercise efficient control over the private hours of the students; and I think that Mr. D. C. Ghose will agree with me that this difference is a very material one.

Professor S. C. Mukherji has said that the professors, who were entertained by the Calcutta University at a moderate salary, have been taken away to Dacca at a much higher salary. That is, however, a matter of congratulation, because the number of high posts under the disposal of the Calcutta University is not many, and they are already occupied by able men no doubt. But there are other educationists, who should be given an opportunity of proving their worth; and I think the Vice-Chancellor of the Dacca University is giving them a very good opportunity. That is, therefore, a matter for congratulation and not for regret.

My friend, Professor S. C. Mukherji, insinuated that the Vice-Chancellor of the Dacca University was present here, because he was interested.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I object to the expression "insinuated." I never meant any insinuation, and I think that it is very unkind of my friend to say so.

Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: I think the interpretation of what my friend said, if I remember aright, was that Mr. Hartog was interested in the matter. But I may say that we are all encouraged by his presence here——

Mr. F. A. LARMOUR: Is the member in order in taking notice of, or of drawing the attention of this Council to, the presence of any stranger in the visitors' gallery? (Several voices: "Hear, hear.")

Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: That is not the Parliamentary practice.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Order!

Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: If I remember aright, in 1913, the Government of India granted a recurring grant of Rs. 5,00,000 to the Dacca University, and now an amount larger than

Rs. 60,00,000 stands to the credit of the Dacca University; and the Vice-Chancellor is entitled to call for this sum. The Government of Bengal, however, are unable to pay it; and although he wanted more than Rs. 16,00,000, the Hon'ble the Minister for Education was only able to give him Rs. 9,00,000. I think that that is a very fair amount; and having regard to the fact that the Dacca University is pregnant with possibilities of great magnitude, I think that no member of this Council should oppose the grant. The feeling in Eastern Bengal is very strong in this respect; and I think the disappointment will be very great if any portion of this grant is cut down. It may be remembered that this University scheme was originated in view of the backwardness of the Muhammadan population of Eastern Bengal, but I think it will be a gain to the whole of Bengal. In matters of education, I think that either Muhammadans or Hindus or Christians, all stand on a footing of equality; and if Bengal is to be developed, and if we are to contribute towards its prosperity, there should be no distinction as to its geographical borders. I, therefore, suggest that the demand for Rs. 9,00,000 to the Dacca University be granted and that the amendment be rejected by the Council.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I rise to oppose this motion. I deem it a great privilege, and let me add a matter of great pleasure, that I am able to extend my support and sympathy to one of our popular Ministers; for I feel that by extending such support, where support is needed, and not by casting our votes in an irresponsible fashion, that we are going to reap the benefits of representative institutions. At this fag-end of the debate, and with only 10 minutes to my credit, I cannot go into details; but I shall say a few words as regards the remarks that have been made by Professor S. C. Mukherji and my friend, Mr. D. C. Ghose. I hope I shall be able to dispose of the remarks of Mr. Ghose, by only saying that he is not quite correct when he says that as we are in a position of a judge, and that as details have not been supplied to us, we cannot do better than refuse this grant. It is well to remember that when the Minister for Education asks for this grant for the Dacca University, it is not possible for him to go into minute details. We have got to trust him; and we have also got to remember that it is not the Minister alone who is going to dispose of this sum; but that in disposing of the money that is placed to the credit of the Dacca University, there are responsible officers who are to associate themselves with the representatives of public opinion, and to thereby frame a scheme which will enable the authorities to fulfil the objects for which the Dacca University is going to be established.

As regards my friend, Professor S. C. Mukherji, he has made an appeal to us to dissociate our speech from feeling and to decide this question free from passion and prejudice. I am sorry that he himself introduced a lot of feeling into his speech; and if I heard him aright,

my own impression is that I have seldom listened to a speech more ful of feeling, excepting perhaps one delivered the day before yesterday in which an attempt has been made to cloud the real points at issue by asking us to decide the question not by appeal to reason but by appea to feeling and feeling alone. Professor S. C. Mukherji has mentione certain instances of appointments made by the Vice-Chancellor of the Dacca University, in which salaries have been paid on a much more liberal scale than have been or are being paid by the Calcutta Univer sity. I cannot repeat the names; but let us take as a typical case the instance of any one of those gentlemen whom he has named, and who wa getting Rs. 300 per month here, but who has been appointed on a salary of Rs. 500 per month. Professor S. C. Mukherji knows very well that there are instances in which people who have got their homes in Western Bengal will not consent on any consideration whatever to accept appointments in Eastern Bengal. I know from personal experience that after the partition of Bengal, when the new province of Eastern Bengal and Assam was formed, Government had the utmost difficulty in inducing its officers to go over to Eastern Bengal; and in some cases I know, as a matter of fact, that officers had to be given promotion in order to induce them to join the cadre of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Government. That may be one reason.

Secondly, if the Calcutta University has not been quite generous to some of its officers, that is no reason why the Dacca University should be equally stingy. There are occasions on which a man's worth is not recognised; and there is also such a thing in the disposal of patronage, which, in ordinary language, we call jobbery. A man who is worth Rs. 50 may be paid Rs. 200 and a man who is worth Rs. 200 may be paid Rs. 50. That is no reason why, because a man gets a particular salary, we should create a distinction and say that there is anything like waste. As has been pointed out already, the appointments of the Dacca University are being scrutinised by a strong committee and there is every reason to believe that the utmost care is being taken not only to make the selections, but also to have a strict control over the expenditure.

Then, Professor S. C. Mukherji has said that Government have been very generous to the Dacca University and very stingy to the Calcutta University. He has said in fact that whereas we are giving to the Calcutta University about Rs. 1,00,000 or so, we have given about Rs. 9,00,000 to the Dacca University. My friend forgets that the contribution of Rs. 1,00,000 is not the only contribution which the Government makes towards the upkeep of the Calcutta University. What is this Calcutta University? It is a congeries of colleges held together by the common bond of an examination system. Government give not only this Rs. 1,00,000 but something more, and also

all that is necessary for the upkeep of all the colleges, namely, the Presidency College, the Krishnagar College, and a host of other colleges, and if you add up all the grants the total will come up to half a crore. My friend seems also to forget that, while Government makes this generous contribution to the Calcutta University, the contribution that is now being made to the Dacca University, is not at all commensurate with the importance of the university that is coming into being. Besides, Government have committed themselves to contribute Rs. 50,00,000 as a grant to the Dacca University, not merely for the initial expenditure, but also for the recurring expenditure.

I shall not go into further details. Before I sit down, I wish to say a few words to my friends who have taken part in this debate, and have opposed the grant to the Dacca University. It has been said that those who have opposed this grant to the Dacca University are not actuated by motives of jealousy towards Dacca; but I have a contrary feeling. My own feeling has been that ever since Lord Hardinge announced that there would be this university in Dacca city—this long-promised, long-deferred long-wished-for university—Dacca—has been a sort of eyesore to the intellectual savants who control the destinies of the Calcutta University. I do not wish to go into this matter, but I wish to give this warning to my friends of Western Bengal, who rise up on every occasion, when funds are provided for Dacca, to try and take away from this provision—" Hands off," I say. If you raise this question in Council, you will cause a cleavage between the two sections of the province, which will be disastrous to the work of the administration. It is not merely on behalf of the Muhammadans of East Bengal but on behalf of the people of East Bengal in general, that I appeal to my friends to drop all opposition to this grant which the Minister wants for the Dacca University.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I am a native of the district of Dacca, and everything about its welfare must command my support. But, there is a higher interest than the interest of my own district. Year after year I have been pressing upon the Government that we spend very little money upon primary education, and we spend the bulk of our grant for education upon universities. Therefore, in the interests of the poor people of this country, I cannot, even in the cause of this University in my own district, support this additional burden which takes away from the grant for primary education. Further, the people of Dacca do not want this University in the form in which it is proposed to be established. Only last week I saw in the papers that the Dacca Peoples' Association waited in deputation on Dr. Hartog and told him that they did not want the duplication of a literary university; they wanted an agricultural college, a medical college and an engineering college. Dr. Hartog said in reply that they were not of a representative character. The papers in Dacca also

shared the views of the Association. Indeed, wherever there is a new university established, the literary side is not given that prominence which is given to the technological side. Without the technological side, the engineering department, and agricultural department, there can be no university. That is the mainstay of a university. What I object to in the Dacca University is that so much money every year should be spent on mere literary education. My support of the amendment is not because I oppose the university; but I oppose the form in which it is sought to be established, and I say everybody in Eastern Bengal, every educated man, will support me in this demand that there should not be merely a literary college or university, but there should be a technological side attached to it. In this view alone I oppose the motion, not because I oppose the University, but because I am opposed to the form which it is assuming.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now ask the Hon'ble the Minister in charge to reply.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: This question has been debated at great length and arguments for and against have been advanced by more than one speaker. I therefore do not propose to enter into any detailed examination of the various arguments that have been advanced. I will try to reply generally but, although I shall try to be brief, I regret that owing to the length of the speeches, I may not be as brief as I would like to be.

My appeal to the House is "let there be more light and less heat," and I would say that if we are to get on, it will not do for the East and West to quarrel, for Hindus and Muhammadans to quarrel; let there be more of love and justice and less of hate and rivalry. With these preliminary remarks, I shall briefly touch upon the various points.

The first point to remember is, that for more than nine years this University has been promised, not a denominational university for Muhammadans alone, as was made very clear by Lord Hardinge when Sir Rash Behari Ghose waited as the head of a deputation before him, but it was to be a university for Hindus and Muhammadans, for all classes.

The next important point to remember is that this is a residential university, and a teaching university. As regards the grant of Rs. 5,00,000 to this University, without going into details, let me point out to the Council, what I have already pointed out, that the cost of the Dacca College alone is about Rs. 2,00,000 a year; the cost of the Presidency College is about Rs. 3,71,000. Taking these two colleges costing Rs. 2,00,000 and Rs. 3,71,000, respectively, we find that the recurring grant of Rs. 5,00,000 for the Dacca University is less than the total expenditure for these two colleges. If you are at all serious about establishing this university, then don't appeal to me for reducing the Rs. 9,00,000 to Rs. 8,00,000. On what data am I going to accept your appeal? Here, I

ıave got a set of responsible persons, persons who are acting under statuory powers, who have come forward with a scheme; according to one of hese schemes, we shall require an expenditure of Rs. 5,00,000; according to another, Rs. 7,50,000. Regard being had to our financial difficulties, I came to the conclusion that Rs. 5,00,000 would be better for a beginning. It is irresponsible for the members of this House to suggest a reduction of this amount. It is not the business of this House to cut down definite schemes. We are here to pass the Budget on the basis of a scheme; when the time comes for spending the money, the local Government will take reasonable care to safeguard the spending of this money. The members of this House can, by questions, safeguard the spending of this money; there will also be a committee appointed to the Education Department who can try to safeguard the spending of this money. It was one of the greatest surprises of my life to hear Mr. D. C. Ghose, who only the other day was holding forth, when discussing the question of the preparation of the paper-books, that it was not the business of the House to go into details. And he is one of the first persons to-day to point out that it is our business to go into details. It was very surprising to hear Mr. Ghose——

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: May I say one word by way of personal explanation? The other day I said that Council ought not to assume the functions of the administration.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: That is precisely my complaint, but I quite realise that Mr. Ghose does not like this charge; that is another matter. It is a question of going into details. I was told that I have not given sufficient details to the House. I admit that charge; if I wanted to go into the details of a big scheme like the Dacca University, it would have taken me hours. This fault is not mine; it is the fault of those members of this House who want to arrogate to themselves the position of administrators, when they really hold only the purse-strings of the nation.

Another point to be remembered is that the Dacca University is not a State university; it is a university created under a statute; the nation has to find the money for its maintenance; it is, therefore, quite right that those who find the money should scrutinise the expenditure; that time has not yet come.

An unfortunate discussion which I deprecated in my opening speech has after all taken place; and I regret it very much. I have got to enter into the respective merits of the Calcutta and Dacca Universities.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: Is the Hon'ble the Minister in order?

The PRESIDENT: Yes, he is.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: It has been said that only Rs. 1,28,000 is provided for the Calcutta University. That is absolutely erroneous. In the Budget members will find that there are grants for Government colleges alone to the extent of Rs. 12,62,000, grants to secondary schools, Rs. 13,37,000, besides grants-in-aid to private secondary schools. Where would the Calcutta University be, if we had not such a large number of schools and colleges to feed it up? We all know the huge income of the Calcutta University earned from fees from the matriculation students alone. Would there be so many secondary schools in this province but for grants of this Government? We all know that the University derives a large income from the Intermediate students and B A. students. Where would the Calcutta University be but for the fees realised from these students? But as I have stated I shall certainly try to do the best I can for the Calcutta University but one has to remember that heaven helps those who help themselves and I am sorry that Calcutta University has not helped itself. If the University which has so many eminent men in its Syndicate and Senate do not care to read the Government of India Act and the Devolution Rules, who is to be blame? Not the Government of Bengal. No application was made before the old Government of Bengal and it is not right either for the old Government or for the Education Minister to act like an autocrat. We must act under the powers we have under the Government of India Act. Even if I wanted to be kind to the Calcutta University, I could not give Rs. 2,00,000 or Rs. 20,00,000 unless I was authorised under the constitution or authorised by the statute to do so. If I wanted to make such an attempt I am sure Professor S. C. Mukherji would have come down upon me and charged me with acting in an unconstitutional manner.

Then a criticism has been levelled that the Dacca University has not provided for vocational education. Members forget that there must be ordinary general education, scientific education, before the question of vocational education can arise. Those who are familiar with the objects of the Dacca University know that vocational education will come, but there can be no provision for it, unless the provision for general education is made. After all Rs. 5,00,000 is less than the yearly expenses of two colleges.

There has been a great deal of criticism about the provision for high salaries in the Dacca University. I admit that I find it difficult to deal with a question like that in a place like this. I happen to know the case of a gentleman, whose name I shall not mention—I do not want to go into personalities. He was offered a post in the Indian Educational Service in the Punjab on Rs. 1,000 a month, with special allowances. If the Calcutta University managed to get his services for a lower sum, then that University is lucky, or it may be that for other reasons he did not care to accept a higher salary. It does not pay anyone to be stingy. If you want to attract good men, you must pay for them. After all,

Rs. 5,00,000 is not a large sum. I do not want to go into any detailed examination of the criticisms levelled at me, but may I be permitted to repeat to the representatives of the Calcutta University that those who cannot help themselves cannot possibly expect others to help them.

One more explanation and I have done. I have asked only for Rs. 4,00,000 of capital grant. The Dacca University has got about Rs. 60,00,000 earmarked for expenditure. If anything, the Dacca University has the right to complain that the Government of Bengal have not been just to it. The members who spoke on behalf of the Calcutta University have no right to complain. Let me conclude by saying that I hope that this bitterness will pass, and in future we shall deal with Calcutta and Dacca on their own merits, and not from the point of view of mutual rivalry.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: Having regard to the strong feeling evinced in the course of this debate——

The PRESIDENT: You are not in order in rising to address the Council again.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I must explain myself. Having regard to the strong feeling evinced in the course of the debate by my fellow members of Eastern Bengal, I think it right to withdraw this amendment.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I oppose.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: May I know if in this Rs 9,00,000 the grant of Rs. 2,00,000 is included?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: No.

The amendment (No. 80) was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn

Motion No. 81 was then put and lost.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I understood it was decided yesterday that these motions relating to hill and Dacca allowances would be withdrawn.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn. "That the demand for hill and Dacca allowances and hill journey charges in account No. 31 be refused."

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. D. C. Ghose was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn: "That the demand for grant for Education (item No. 31 in the Budget estimates) be reduced by Rs. 4,40,000."

The following original motion (No. 79) was then put and carried: "That a sum of Rs. 1,06,32,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '31—Education' (excluding European Education)."

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till Friday, the 8th March, 1921, at 3 P.M.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Friday, the 18th March, 1921, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Executive Members, the Hon'ble the three Ministers and 115 nominated and elected members.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda) Order! Order! The Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler.

Voting of Grants.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EUROPEAN EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler) moved "that the Council be pleased to pass a vote of Rs. 6,93,000 under the head 31—Education—European Education—on behalf of the schools for the education of the children of the domiciled European and Anglo-Indian Community."

In connection with the figure of Rs. 6,93,000 reference may be made to the table on page 38 of the document with the grey cover, entitled "Budget of the Government of Bengal for 1921-22." It will be seen that this table contains a heading "Budget Estimate for 1921-22," and that this heading is divided into two sub-heads, viz., "Reserved Heads" and "Transferred Heads." It is to the column "Reserved Heads" that I invite attention. This sub-head is divided into three columns, namely, "Non-voted," "Voted" and "Total." The "Reserved Heads," so far as education is concerned, are not confined to European schools. They also cover the education of Indians in the excluded areas of Darjeeling and the Chittagong Hill Tracts. To the table on page 38 there is a note appended to the effect that the figures in *italics* represent expenditure on European Education. It is a little difficult to distinguish the figures in *italics* from the others, but all the figures in the "Voted column" under the "Reserved Heads" represent expenditure on European Education. The European Education provision shown in the non-voted column covers (*a*) Rs. 2,64,000 shown against Government Schools—General, (*b*) Rs. 10,000 shown against Inspection, and (*c*) Rs. 2,68,000 shown against Grants-in-aid—a total provision of Rs. 5,42,000. Therefore, the position is that the total provision proposed for European Education is Rs. 12,35,000, towards which the Council is asked to vote Rs. 6,93,000.

But why has Rs. 5,42,000 out of a total provision of Rs. 12,35,000 een excluded from the Council's vote? Rupees 10,000 of this repre-ents the salary of the Inspector of European Schools, who is an Imper-l Service officer. The provision of Rs. 2,64,000 against Government chools—General, and the provision of Rs. 2,68,000 against Grants-in-id are both made on account of institutions which are located in the arjeeling district, and as such, the charges on their account do not ome under the vote of the Council. This exclusion is the result of the atutory rules, and Government have, in face of these rules been com-elled to declare out of order certain motions which were submitted for he reduction of the grants to which I have just referred. It is, owever, realised that the exclusion of European schools in res-rved areas from the Council's vote of supplies was not one f the objects for which certain areas were excluded from the general ontrol of the Council. These provisions cannot be put to the vote of he Council, and consequently the motions for reduction cannot be oved. But, if the movers of these motions desire an opportunity of ating before the Council their views with regard to these provisions, will be open to them to move resolutions under the rules for the dis-ussion of matters of general public interest. Government will welcome e opportunity, which will thus be afforded them, of explaining why is additional expenditure was included in the Budget.

The amount, then, which I ask the Council to vote, viz., Rs. 6,93,000, omes wholly under the minor head E—General Expenditure, and covers hree items only, viz., Rs. 13,000 shown against Inspection, Rs. 6,35,000 hown against Grants-in-aid, and Rs. 45,000 shown against Scholarships. he first charge represents the cost of the office establishment of the nspector of European Schools. The proposed provision of Rs 45,000 r scholarships calls for no comment. For the details of the proposed ote of Rs. 6,35,000 for grants-in-aid, I must refer to page 104 of the udget.

The total voted provision of Rs. 6,35,000 is made up of the following em:—Rs. 5,24,000 shown under 1-B against Secondary Schools, s. 6,000 shown under 1-B against Technical and Industrial Schools, s. 99,000 shown under 2-B against Building grants, and Rs. 6,000 hown under 2-B against Furniture and Equipment Grant The side eadings under 1-B are misleading. The proposed provision of s. 5,24,000 is not for secondary schools only, but for both secondary nd elementary schools outside the excluded areas. The non-voted pro-ision of Rs. 2,60,000 is for both secondary and elementary schools vithin the excluded areas, and includes the additional grant of Rs. 80,000 or the Kalimpong Homes.

The provision of Rs. 5,24,000 for grants-in-aid includes the following ew provisions, viz.—

(*a*) an additional grant to the Loreto Convent, Entally, Rs. 20,000;

(*b*) an additional salary grant to the Calcutta Free School, Rs. 9,000.

As motions have been submitted in connection with these items, as also with the proposal to provide an additional sum of Rs. 50,000 for building grants to European schools, further explanations can best be given in answer thereto.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: After hearing Sir Henry Wheeler and in view of certain information which was given to me yesterday, I beg to ask leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

It was as follows: "That the demand for Rs. 50,000 as additional building grants to European schools be reduced to Rs. 25,000."

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I also withdraw the next motion as well.

It was as follows: "That the demand for Rs. 9,000 as additional salary grant to the Calcutta Free School be reduced to Rs. 4,500."

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I also beg to withdraw the next motion.

It was as follows: "That the demand for Rs. 20,000 as additional grant to Loreto Convent, Entally, be reduced to Rs. 10,000."

The original motion of Sir Henry Wheeler "that a sum of Rs. 6,93,000 be granted for expenditure under the head 31—Education—European Education," was then put and agreed to.

MINISTER in charge of MEDICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea) moved "that the demand of Rs. 45,12,000 be voted by the Council as the grant under head '32—Medical' for the year 1921-22."

To take the amount under refunds which is the smallest, first, with a view to obviate the unnecessary swelling of the revenue and expenditure accounts, the Government of India have ordered that all refunds from revenue, in the Civil estimates and in the accounts, must be shown to be deductions from the actual collections. As, however, all revenue collected is deposited in full into the treasury, the refunds, which represent the repayment of excess amounts collected, are really expenditure which requires the vote of the Council and therefore we have included it in the demand for grant.

Sir, in moving this demand for grant under the head "Medical" I desire to point out that it is, and has been, the settled policy of the Government to widen the scope and extent of Medical relief and to add to the number of qualified doctors in the province. It was observed in the course of the debate, which took place the other day in connection with the Budget, that the number of qualified doctors in this province is 1 per 42,000 of the population. It is a grievous complaint and I am sure I speak the sense of this Council that it is, and it ought to be the duty of the Government and the representatives of the people to combine, to minimise and to reduce this great evil. In accordance with the

policy to which I have referred, extended accommodation has been added to the Campbell Medical School and the Dacca Medical School. In pursuance of the same policy, a medical school will be opened at Burdwan in the course of the calendar year and a sum of Rs. 49,000 has been budgeted for expenditure which is now before the Council. Provision has also been made for a Tropical School of Medicine, with which it has been decided to amalgamate the Institute of Hygiene. Sir, considerable doubts and misgivings exist in the public mind with regard to this Tropical School of Medicine, and it seems to me that perhaps a few words of explanation from me as representing the Government will help to dissipate the misgivings which prevail in connection with this matter. The object of this institution is twofold. In the first place, it is to conduct research in connection with tropical diseases; in the second place, it is to be a post-graduate college for training in subjects relating to tropical diseases. Sir, the need of research in these days is unquestionable. Research extends the bounds of human knowledge, and the medical practitioner takes advantage of the knowledge thus placed at his disposal for ministering to his patients. Thus it is necessary that there should be a research institution of this kind. The scientist working in the laboratory is the ally, the comrade and colleague of the doctor looking after his patients. We have not got such an institution in this province. We want one urgently and this one will supply the need.

In the next place, it is to be a post-graduate college for education in connection with tropical diseases. We have a post-graduate college in arts. Thanks to the liberality and princely benefactions of Sir Tarak Nath Palit and Sir Rash Behari Ghose, whose death we mourn—thanks to their princely benefactions we have got a post-graduate College in Science. Why not have a post-graduate college in medicine in connection with tropical diseases? Calcutta seems to me to be the most suitable place for conducting investigations of this kind, for here we stand face to face with tropical diseases and we can study them on the spot. Therefore the need for a post-graduate college here for the purpose of studying tropical diseases seems to me to be beyond question. Furthermore, there is this fact to be borne in mind, and I appeal to my friend Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, who is so very keen about the expansion of Ayurvedic institutions, that the Tropical School of Medicine will investigate the properties of indigenous drugs and thus be helpful to the cultivation of Ayurvedic medicine. It seems to me, therefore, that the need of an institution of this kind in this province is established beyond all doubt, but, Sir, there is at the back of the minds of many of my friends a sort of suspicion—I have discovered it in the course of conversation with them—that this institution will not afford facilities to Indians for the attainment of distinctions, to which they are entitled by their investigations into tropical diseases. I wish to say at once that there is not the slightest foundation for this apprehension.

In this noble temple of science there shall be no racial qualification or disqualification. All will have the amplest opportunities, provided they have got the necessary qualifications, for the highest distinctions All will have the fullest opportunities for cultivating those gifts and faculties with which nature has endowed them. In a matter of research, I am perfectly convinced that the policy of Government in connection with this institution will be the removal of all qualifications and disqualifications founded upon racial considerations. I desire to make this statement in regard to this institution because of the misapprehension and misunderstanding which prevail on the subject. We have provided for expenditure for the Tropical School of Medicine which, I hope, will be opened in the course of the next year, and there will be clinical arrangements in connection with it. Of course there will be receipts, and the receipts will be taken note of.

I pass on next to the Belgachia School of Medicine, for which a provision of Rs. 4,00,000 has been made in the Budget. Referring to the Belgachia School of Medicine, I cannot help adverting for a moment to the great loss which the country has sustained by the death of Colonel Sarbadhikary, who was the President of the Belgachia College Council. He was not only a prince among surgeons but a great public benefactor, and to him we are largely indebted for the organisation of the University Corps, which I hope will soon be in a flourishing condition. It was represented to the Government that the Belgachia School wanted a sum of Rs. 6,17,000 for necessary improvements and in order to comply with the University requirements. We agreed to make them a grant of Rs. 4,00,000, provided they were able to secure the balance from other sources. On this understanding we have made the provision to which I have referred in the Budget. In the next place, I desire to call attention to the provision of Rs. 15,000 which is to be found in the Budget as expenditure for charitable dispensaries in the mufassal. To me nothing has been so heartening or stimulating since the tenure of my office as the interest which the *bhadralog* class in Bengal are beginning to feel in the establishment of dispensaries in the mufassal. They are beginning to realise that these dispensaries do a large amount of public good, and to me it is a matter of very great gratification to find middle class people not overburdened with the wealth of this world coming forward with substantial contributions for the purpose of establishing these dispensaries. May this spirit grow and deepen for the benefit of medical relief and the alleviation of human suffering in this province.

Then, Sir, on the expenditure side there has been an increase in medical establishment and this is due to a twofold cause. In the first place, funds have to be provided in accordance with the orders of the Government of India sanctioned by the Secretary of State for increased pay granted to Assistant Surgeons, Civil and Military. In consequence

f these orders, the revised estimates for the year show an increase, and lso provision has been made on the expenditure side for next year.

Then, Sir, another reason for the increase is that the septennial xaminations, which used to be held for Assistant Surgeons, have now een replaced by a post-graduate course in the Medical College, for hich a provision has been made of Rs. 3,000.

Sir, the care of lunatics is one of the concerns of all civilised States, nd it is the concern of the Government of Bengal. A contribution is rovided for in the Budget to be made to the Government of Bihar and rissa for a central lunatic asylum for Indians, and also expenditure has een provided for sending European lunatics to the Ranchi Lunatic Asylum.

Sir, next comes the provision for the Eden Hospital. It will be in he recollection of old members of this Council—I am sure my friend Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur will remember it—that Sir Silratan Sircar moved a resolution on this subject for the extension of he Eden Hospital before the old Council. The resolution was withdrawn n an undertaking being given by the Government. In redemption of hat promise, and also in order to meet the growing wants of the Hospital and the increased requirements of the Calcutta University, it has een found necessary to extend the Eden Hospital, and a sum of Rs. 80,000 has been provided for the necessary extensions. Further, e have provided a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 for a hostel to accommodate Medical College students. Last year we purchased land at a cost of Rs. 7,00,000; the land has to be built upon, and Rs. 1,00,000 has been rovided for this purpose.

Sir, there is a grant which we are accustomed to make to the Surgeon-General for minor works. This grant in ordinary years comes up o Rs. 50,000. In consequence of financial stringency we have been bliged to reduce it to Rs. 35,000. The Surgeon-General will be ompelled to postpone some of the necessary works. The more urgent nes he will take in hand, but I mention this fact in order to point out o the Council the economic lines upon which the Budget has been ramed. All the same, Sir, our expenditure side represents a record, or we have budgeted for a sum of Rs. 52,24,000—a figure which we ever budgeted in connection with the Medical Department in Bengal. Sir, having made these observations, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 45,12,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "32—Medical."

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur moved "that the demand for Rs. 40,000 for the increase of the pay of the Military Assistant Surgeons e reduced to Rs. 20,000."

In doing so, I wish to lay before this House certain facts and figures. find that a provision has been made for an increase in the pay of Assistant Surgeons, for which a grant of Rs. 50,000 is asked for and, as far as

I have been able to gather from the Civil List and other papers at my disposal—I regret I could not get the specific figures from the Department—the figures stand thus: 130 Civil Assistant Surgeons—their pay is graded from Rs. 200—450, and 34 Military Assistant Surgeons—their pay is graded from Rs. 350—750. My proposition is that instead of Rs. 40,000, Rs. 20,000 be granted, and that will give an increment of Rs. 600 per head, to each of the 34 Military Assistant Surgeons per annum. I have had some conversation with the Minister (I hope it will not be taken as a private conversation), who told me that the Assistant Surgeons may rise to the post of Civil Surgeon. On examining the Civil List I find that only five Assistant Surgeons out of nearly 140 rose to the post of Civil Surgeon. This is in the recently published Civil List.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: What is the date of the Civil List?

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: 3rd January, 1921. We got it only a week ago. If that argument holds good in the case of Civil Assistant Surgeons, I would show from this very book that these Military Assistant Surgeons can also rise to the rank of Civil Surgeons, and on page 388 you will find that there are certain Military Assistant Surgeons who have also risen to the rank of Civil Surgeons. I do not think, therefore, that there is any bar to any qualified Military Assistant Surgeon rising to that position, and neither any one in this House or outside it would complain if any qualified Military Assistant Surgeon is promoted to the post of Civil Surgeon. I do not know what are the academic or other qualifications of Military Assistant Surgeons, but I find from the list of titles appended to the names of a large number of 140 Assistant Surgeons, they are almost M.B.'s of the Calcutta Medical College, and therefore, if such educated and qualified men can be obtained on a salary of Rs. 200 rising the maximum salary of the Military Assistant Surgeons to Rs. 700 or even a little over that. On these grounds, Sir, I think, when we are all anxious for economy, and our Hon'ble Minister is also trying his best to get funds in order to take up the gigantic task which he has undertaken—the improvement of sanitation, and also the natural ambition which he has in his mind to drive out malaria from Bengal—I think in this way if he goes on increasing the expenditure on establishment, he will not be able to find funds for that purpose. Although this is a small item I believe that it will be admitted that the cost of establishment has increased and it is time perhaps, when we are passing this item, that we should suggest that some reduction may be made under this head. I therefore formally move the reduction of the allotment from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 20,000.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I beg to oppose the motion. I do not believe in going against everybody. There is little ground for dissatisfaction because these Military Assistant Surgeons are mostly, if not all, Anglo-Indians and they get a little higher pay. Sir, I wish to live in amity with the domiciled Anglo-Indian community. It is true that these gentlemen do not yet regard Indians as fellow-nationals and they treat Indians, like Europeans, with pride in their port and defiance in their eyes. But this state of things will shortly pass away. We have got some power by our large majority among numbers, and I do not wish to use this to their disadvantage. Sir, we want so to act with the domiciled community that they should consider us as their fellow-nationals, and Hindus, Muhammadans, Christians, whether Indians or Europeans, should form one great Indian nation. With these words, I oppose this motion.

The Hon'ble SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I am sure, Sir, I feel, that in view of the friendly and conciliatory attitude of my friend in regard to the whole question, that after the explanation, which I am about to submit has been placed before this Council, my friend will see his way to withdraw his motion. I want to point out, in the first place, that these Military Assistant Surgeons are a part of what is called the mobilised military reserve—they are a part of the army. But certain civil appointments are given to them and a number of Civil Surgeoncies are allotted to them. At the present moment they hold five Civil Surgeoncies. I have made enquiries as to the way in which they are doing their work, and the highest authority in the service—the Surgeon-General—has assured me that they are performing their duties with ability and efficiency. I do not think we are entitled to call into question such testimony coming from the Surgeon-General. Therefore, here are these Civil Surgeons—Military Assistant Surgeons undoubtedly they are—performing their duties with ability and efficiency. They have been appointed to other positions and the Surgeon-General says that they have performed their duties well. But their financial condition is pitiful, and here again I quote the testimony of the Surgeon-General, who says: "With rigid rates of pay fixed a generation ago, it is impossible for them to long remain in civil employment where their conditions are always worse than in the military side. It is impossible to expect these men—and that I think is most important—to give whole-hearted and contented service under the prevailing conditions of their service. As a class they fill difficult and troublesome appointments willingly and loyally." I attach the utmost importance to the concluding words of the Surgeon-General. If you employ these men, you must make them happy and contented. If you keep them in a wretched financial position, they will be miserable, they will be dissatisfied, they will be inefficient, and they will not perform their duties well. That is the whole position. The Government of India directed that there should

be—and this is the crucial point—a temporary increase of pay—mark the word "temporary"—owing to the rise in prices, subject to the whole question being reconsidered when things have assumed their normal condition. As a matter of fact you have afforded relief to all classes of public servants—read the Budget—you have provided Rs. 40,00,000 for the increase of pay to the ministerial establishment. And here the Government of India direct that you should give a temporary allowance to these men in order to afford necessary relief owing to high prices. It is an appeal for justice, it is an appeal to masters who, it is hoped, will treat their servants in a generous and liberal spirit and make them happy and satisfied; and I am sure you are not going to controvert the orders of the Government of India based on reasons so sound, and upon which you yourselves have acted in other matters, as for instance the ministerial establishment. You have given them Rs. 40,00,000 and will you grudge this money to the poor Military Assistant Surgeons?

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: What is their number?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: Their number is 35. The number is very limited. My friend has made a comparison between Civil Assistant Surgeons and Military Assistant Surgeons. The Civil Assistant Surgeons have got a permanent increase of pay—not merely a temporary one—but a permanent increase beginning from Rs. 200 and rising up to Rs. 450. Again, my friend is all wrong about the figures regarding the number of Civil Surgeoncies held by the Civil Assistant Surgeons. If he had taken the trouble of looking down the page and also looking over the next page, he would have found that there are not five but seven Civil Surgeoncies held by them at the present moment, and the number will soon rise to nine. Not only that. You have already seven Civil Surgeons and there are a number of appointments reserved for the Civil Assistant Surgeons from which the Military Assistant Surgeons are excluded.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: There are similar appointments for Military Assistant Surgeons also.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I am speaking of Civil Assistant Surgeons. I find there are 29 such appointments—4 Assistant Chemical Examiners, 4 Assistant Professors in the Medical College, 17 Teachers of Medical Schools and 4 Assistant Bacteriologists. They get allowances over and above their pay from Rs. 50 to Rs. 150 a month. Not only that, but the Surgeon-General has recommended an increase and the case is pending before me This is the situation, and surely the Civil Assistant Surgeons are very well off. My friend may rest assured that, if their condition in any way suffers by comparison with the Military Assistant Surgeons, it would be my duty to rectify it. I hope, therefore, that

having regard to these circumstances, my friend will see his way to withdraw the motion.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: May I just ask whether it is not a fact that, from the very nature of their work, these Military Assistant Surgeons cannot enjoy private practice like the Civil Assistant Surgeons?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: Yes, that is a fact.

The motion was then put and lost.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I formally move "that the demand for Rs. 75,000 for grants to the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institute be reduced to Rs. 25,000," and in doing so, I wish to state that it is my desire more to take the opportunity to ventilate certain points than to urge this motion for reduction.

I hope, Sir, that the facts, which I wish to bring forward, will have due consideration at the hands of the Hon'ble Minister.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I rise to a point of order. The member had every right to ventilate grievances when the Budget was being discussed, but if he says at this stage that he would ventilate certain grievances and would not press the motion, is he in order?

The PRESIDENT: The Rai Bahadur has moved his motion formally and he may urge anything which is relevant to that motion. I do not think he is out of order.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I have no desire to turn a somersault like my friend. I wanted to state that I did not intend to ask for a division, but still I thought it necessary to move my motion in order to put certain facts before the Council. You will find on page 109 of the Budget Estimates that last year a sum of Rs 6,500 was paid as grant for the training of pupils, *dais*, etc., and the amount expended was only Rs. 6,000. Rupees 75,282 was budgeted last year for the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institute and the actual expenditure was Rs 93,000. This year Rs. 75,000 has been budgeted for the Calcutta Nurse's Institute. Rupees 16,200 was budgeted last year for Lady Minto's Nursing Association and the actual expenditure was Rs 11,000. This year Rs. 10,800 has been budgeted for the same Institution. Last year Rs. 5,800 was budgeted for Lady Canning's Homes for the Training of Nurses and the actual expenditure was Rs. 6,000, and this year Rs 5,800 has been budgeted for it. One thing I wish to point out here is that for the training of pupils and *dais* Rs. 6,500 was budgeted for the whole province and only Rs. 6,000 was actually spent for the purpose, and that Rs. 93,000 was spent for the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institute, although Rs. 75,000 was budgeted for it. I would also like to point

out that the total grant for medical purposes for 1919-20 was Rs. 1,02,244, and out of this, Rs. 75,000 was budgeted for the Calcutta Nurses' Institute. In 1920-21 the total grant was Rs. 1,10,000, and out of this, Rs. 85,400 was spent for the Calcutta Nurses' Institute, and in the ensuing year, when the total grant is going to be Rs. 99,000, a sum of Rs. 75,000 has been budgeted for this institution. My point is this: That for the whole province you spend Rs. 6,400 for the training of pupils and *dais* and you spent Rs. 75,000 for the Calcutta Nurses' Institute, and nearly Rs. 11,000 for Lady Minto's Nursing Institution. The Calcutta Nurses' Institute was started in 1859 by Lady Canning for the training of nurses. It is a very useful institution, no doubt, but what I find is this, that last year 183 nurses were trained and they were employed only in the Medical College Hospital and the Presidency General Hospital. When this institute was started the object was to supply trained nurses to the leading hospitals in Calcutta. There are other hospitals in Calcutta besides the two hospitals named by me, viz., the Campbell Hospital, the Mayo Hospital, the Sambhunath Pandit Hospital, and I do not find that these Hospitals are supplied with nurses from this institute. Personally I am not at all anxious to cripple the resources of this institute; but looking to their report, I find that their work is very restricted, and it is necessary that, if we are to continue our grant, we must ask them to enlarge their scope and also ask them to take a broader outlook. For the training of nurses for the whole Presidency a sum of Rs. 6,000 only has been provided, and a sum of Rs. 75,000 has been provided for the training of nurses in Calcutta. This shows a great disparity in the figures. No doubt the nurses of the institute render excellent service to the Presidency General Hospital and the Medical College Hospital, but the bulk of the poor people, especially Indians, are not accommodated in the Presidency General Hospital. They generally go to the Campbell, the Mayo, the Sambhunath and the Howrah hospitals. Therefore I think it is necessary to bring this matter into prominence, so that something may be done to enlarge the scope of this institute, so that it may render more useful service to the community at large.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I am sorry I have to oppose my friend Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur in this matter. He ventures to express the hope that something may be done to enlarge the scope of the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institute, and at the same time he wants to cut down the grant allotted to them. I cannot understand this policy. If you have got to enlarge the scope of an institute, which he has described as a useful institution, then where is the room for asking that this grant be not voted? If it is a useful institution, let it live, let it thrive, and let it grow. Why do you come and say—let us not give them the money? There is no meaning in that. Then my friend said that the work of this institute was very much restricted. If my friend had any idea—I mean he has the idea, but he did not express it—it was due to

the number of the nurses being very limited. A nurse has got to sit by the side of a patient for days and days together, watching her patient through sleepless days and nights. It is true that we have not got a large number of them, and the institute cannot supply the nurses that are wanted. But it is beyond question that it is a useful institution and it is beyond question that it is a noble institution—one of the noblest institutions that England has brought into this country, one for which we ought to be grateful to her; and above all, it is an institution in aid of suffering humanity. It does not admit of caste or race or creed or anything of that kind. There is another thing to remember. Your Hindu home, your joint family system, is dissolving every day. You have no longer a widowed aunt or widowed sister to sit and watch you at the time of illness. Under the influence of Western ideas you have got rid of them. As you have driven them out, you must have these nursing sisters and mothers to watch by the side of your death-bed. Either call them back, call back the widowed sister or the widowed sister-in-law. Give them food and everything that they may require, and they will nurse you during your illness and give you comfort and solace at the death-bed. That is the one way doing it. But if you do not want to do it, you must have a system of nurses, if you want comfort at the time of illness, of misery, or of grief.

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: I beg to support this resolution on a matter of principle. Some members of this Council asked for medical relief in the mufassal, but their questions have not received sympathetic treatment at the hands of the Minister. In reply to Babu Brojendra Kishor Ray Chaudhuri regarding a very bad type of malaria in the Tangail subdivision, the Hon'ble Minister in charge said on the 14th of March that Government had received no communication, and that it was the duty of the local authorities to take steps. If I may be permitted to read another reply——

The PRESIDENT: You cannot read out the replies. You may refer to them. It is understood that members are cognizant of answers given to questions during the same session of the Council.

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: I was only saying that the mufassal has received unsympathetic treatment at the hands of the Minister. To another question his reply was——

The PRESIDENT: I have already said that you cannot read the reply. Members are already in possession of it.

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: The fact is this that, whenever any question for improving the sanitary condition in the mufassal is brought forward, it receives very unsympathetic treatment. Now, Sir, the institute for nurses in Calcutta may be very good, but these nurses would only minister to the needs of the Calcutta people, and they would scarcely go to help the people of the mufassal. The local

authorities in the mufassal, with very small resources in their hand cannot improve insanitary conditions, and yet they are expected to d it. Then why should not this institute be supported by the Calcutt Corporation, which has got a very big income? Sir, I hear a Calcutt member saying that the Corporation has no means. But I can tell hi that the same thing may be said of mufassal municipalities and di trict boards. They have got many works to do and they cannot affor to look to these things. Therefore, on principle, I support this resolu tion. My point is that you accord the same treatment to the mufassa as you do to Calcutta.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: In reply to th motion, I desire to repudiate with some emphasis the charge which ha been brought against the Ministry of Public Health that we ar unsympathetic in our treatment of the mufassal, when complaints ar made that diseases are prevalent in the mufassal. The instance Tangail has been cited. I desire to point out to my friend that th prevalence of *kala-azar* in Tangail has been the subject of the mos anxious consideration on the part of the Ministry of Public Healt As soon as I learnt that there was this disease in the Tangail subdivisio I consulted Dr. Bentley and I asked him what could be done and shoul be done, and I also told him that we must take prompt action. I fu ther asked him to wire to the District Board at once requesting the to consider the feasibility of starting a bacteriological laboratory Tangail for the microscopic examination of the blood, as it was diffic to distinguish between *kala-azar* and malaria. If the diagnosis wrong—I am not a doctor, but I can say that if quinine is administered the case of *kala-azar*, then the whole treatment becomes fruitless a no good result follows by the administration of quinine. It is the first importance that the diagnosis should be correct, and the dia nosis can only be tested by the microscopic examination of the blo As soon as the information was given to me that there was a serio type of malaria or *kala-azar* at Tangail, as soon as I got the informatio I placed myself in communication with the Sanitary Commissioner a asked him to indicate to the local authorities the feasibility of establis ing a laboratory. Am I indifferent to the case of the mufassal wh *kala-azar* is raging there? I want a reply from my friend. I thin that after this explanation he will be fair and generous enough to wit draw his charge.

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: The thing is this: We we not aware of these facts.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: Before yo brought the charge you might have inquired of me——

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: But, Sir, as I was going t

The PRESIDENT: You may withdraw the charge, or offer an explanation. But you cannot make another speech.

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister that he has been treating the mufassal sympathetically and will also do so in future, I withdraw my charge.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I am in the deepest sympathy with the object of my friend and I may tell him that there is at the present moment a case under investigation with regard to the prevalence of malarial fever in the Putia subdivision of the Rajshahi district—I think my friend Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri knows it. There the death-rate exceeds the birth-rate and, as soon as the facts were brought to my notice, I sent the papers to the Sanitary Commissioner and we are concerting measures for the purpose of starting an investigation. We are as anxious for the mufassal, as for Calcutta, in regard to all proposals for the improvement of the public health.

A statement has been made by my friend that this grant will only benefit Calcutta and not the mufassal, but my friend overlooks the fact that nurses are trained in the Medical College, and thus the benefit will diffuse itself over the mufassal.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Do all the nurses get their training in the Medical College?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: Not all the nurses. I think you have made a mistake: you did not quite understand me. What I said was this: the nurses give training to the Indian *dais* who spread over the country, and in that way the mufassal will be benefited to some extent at least, partly from the existence of this institution in Calcutta.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Is it not a fact that only 10 native *dais* were trained last year?

The PRESIDENT: I think that is more by way of an argument than asking for an explanation. I think the Hon'ble Minister should be allowed to go on with his reply without constant interruption.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I think it is necessary that the members should know something about this institution, because it seems to me that there is a considerable amount of misconception with regard to it. This institution was founded in 1859 through the influence and patronage of Lady Canning, the wife of Lord Canning, the first Viceroy of India—a name cherished in grateful remembrance by my countrymen, for his rule was tempered with justice and clemency. Lady Canning gave her all to India—she died in India— she sleeps on the banks of the Ganges in the beautiful grounds

attached to the Government Park at Barrackpore. This institution wa founded through her influence in 1859, and since 1863 it has been obtain ing a grant from Government. It is an institution of mercy and bene ficence, transcending all considerations of race, religion and creed, an I know of no sentiment more deep-rooted in the hearts of true-bor Indians than the sentiment of reverence for women engaged in th task of ameliorating human suffering and human misery, and I an perfectly certain that there will be this feeling of respect and affectio towards unselfish nurses devoting their time to ministering to the want and the sufferings of the sick, the poor and the dying. We in th Council represent the better mind of Bengal and I am sure by your vot you will give expression to the feeling that institutions of charity, institu tions of beneficence and mercy are not to be crippled, not to be fettered b the restriction which is proposed by the amendment. If you look at th figures you will find that we do not pay more than we ought to. This insti tution costs Rs. 2,50,000 every year and we give them Rs. 75,000 and n more. But what is the outturn of work that we get from them? There ar at the present moment 177 nurses, 99 of whom are engaged in the Medica College Hospital, in the Eden Hospital, and in the Prince of Wale Hospital. In other words, the majority of them are engaged in th sort of hospital work, and in these hospitals the number of the India patients is 411 every day on an average. First, you have got the majorit of the members of the institute engaged in certain hospitals where the ma jority of the patients—two-thirds of the patients—are Indians. Therefor the greater part of their number are engaged for the benefit of our people and you pay them how much? You pay them less than one-third of th annual expenditure, and the bulk of them are engaged in hospitals i which two-thirds of the inmates are Indians. They would be entitled at least as a matter of mathematical proportion, to half the expenditure Their expenditure is Rs. 2,50,000: you pay them Rs. 75,000, or one third of the entire expenditure. It seems to me that they are entitle to ask for more than what you are going to give them. As a matter o fact, the Secretary of the Institute saw me and he wanted Rs. 50,00 more. I told him that owing to financial stringency we were not in a position to pay the amount. Therefore, having regard to the justic of the case, it seems to me that you are paying less than what you ought to.

I think you ought to look at the matter from another point of view. Bear in mind that this is a transferred subject; your vote and voice will be final. There is no appeal against your decision in this matter except to that great Tribunal, to which are addressed the pleadings of the poor, the sick and the dying. Yours is the final voice. I ask you to rise to the height of your duty and to approach this question with an added sense of responsibility, having regard to the fact that your decision will be final and it is in your power either to help the institution or to cripple, to injure and to destroy it. And by crippling the institution

whom do you injure? Your own countrymen Are you going to do that? Then there is another consideration, which we have to bear in mind. We are here to ensure the success of the experiment on which we are engaged, and what is the *modus operandi*? What is the process? It is co-operation—co-operation between Europeans and Indians—between all sections of our great community. What is the first fundamental condition of co-operation? Mutual goodwill, mutual esteem and mutual confidence. I am perfectly confident that there is an absolute unanimity of opinion among the European members in regard to the grant of the demand which I have put forward to-day. Will you not treat that expression of opinion with sympathy, with respect and with consideration? Europeans and Indians may not always see eye to eye. Differences of opinion there will be. On questions of principle, on questions of constitutional rights there may be divergence and differences, but I hope and trust that Europeans and Indians will always stand upon the same platform in matters of philanthrophy, charity and beneficence. Let it not go forth that your decision to-day has been determined by considerations extraneous to the merits of the case or by issues which should be buried in oblivion——

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: Nobody has said that.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA : I hope and trust that you will look at this matter from the larger standpoint of humanitarian interest, from the point of view of the public interest and with due regard to considerations of economy and prudence. If you look at the question from these points of view, I have not the slightest doubt as to what the decision of the House will be—it will be a decision in support of the demand. I hope and trust that my friend will not press his resolution and will see his way to withdraw it.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I have already said that I do not wish to press it. I am sorry that so much eloquence is lost over it. I wanted to have a discussion on the subject and to disclose the inequality of treatment and I am quite content with it.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

As Dr. A. Suhrawardy was absent, the motion standing in his name was deemed to have been withdrawn.

The motion was as follows: "That the demand for Rs. 75,000 for grants to the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institute be reduced to Rs. 25,000"

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I have already assured the Hon'ble Minister when I talked with him on the subject that I would withdraw my motion. So I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

It was as follows: "That the demand under 32—Medical be reduced by Rs. 1,95,000 by the omission of the provision for the staff and working expenses of the School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Institute."

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: After hearing the appeal from the Hon'ble Minister I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

It was as follows: "That the demand under head 'Detailed Expenditure for Medical College and Schools, No. 32-D,' at pages 108 and 109, the grant to Medical College for Rs. 4,36,000 be reduced by Rs. 26,000 and to Medical Schools for Rs. 2,77,000 be reduced by Rs. 75,000."

Mr. D. C. GHOSE moved "that the demand for grant under '32-Medical' be reduced by Rs. 95,000."

It will appear from the details given in the Budget Estimate at page 110 that of the total sum which the Hon'ble Minister demands under the head "Medical," the expenditure in connection with the School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Institute forms an important part. This item consists of Rs. 1,95,000. Now what I propose is that this grant should be reduced by Rs. 95,000. It will be in the recollection of most of us that, when Sir Leonard Rogers orginated his scheme for a School of Tropical Medicine and appealed for public support, our countrymen responded generously and made it possible for him to carry out his great idea. Sir Koilash Chandra Bose was most assiduous in collecting large donations for the Tropical School fund, and I find from the subscription lists that all classes of our countrymen, Marwaris, Bengali, zamindars, rich Muhammadan gentlemen and others, all subscribed handsomely to this fund. And what is the result? The School of Tropical Medicine has come into existence, but its doors are shut against doctors who are outside the Indian Medical Service. A glance at the professorial staff of the school, as published last year, will convince anybody that this institution has been made a close preserve for members of the Indian Medical Service. All the chairs, I find, are held by members of the Indian Medical Service. There is one Indian who occupies a subordinate position. He is not a professor but a teacher. He however holds the most substantial degrees. He is an M.Sc. of the Calcutta University, B.Sc. of Edinburgh, besides being F.R.C.S. and F.C.S.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: I rise to support the motion.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: Dr. Sudhamoy Ghose. This gentleman is not considered fit to be one of the professors of the school. Now I ask—is this fair? Here is an institution built upon Indian soil and reared mostly by Indian money but which does not give Indian doctors outside the Medical Service a chance to undertake investigations into the causes and remedies of tropical diseases. I ask again—is this fair? There are in Calcutta medical men outside the Indian Medical Service, who have done considerable research work in connection with some of the tropical diseases. Why should they not be allowed to fill some of the chairs? Then, Sir, I do not find that there is any adequate provision for the purpose of enabling Indian students to carry on research

work in this School. I find that the conditions of the Research Endowments make it absolutely impossible for Indians to take advantage of them. I do not complain of that. But what I complain of is this that Government have not made adequate provision for the purpose of enabling Indian students to carry on research work. I find from the description of the governing body of the Endowment Funds that only one Indian has a place on that body. I want that Indian doctors enjoying large practice and having much knowledge of tropical diseases should be on this governing body. I submit therefore that this Council will be well advised to reduce the grant, unless it is made clear, first, that the appointments of professors in this school will not be limited to the members of the Indian Medical Service but will be open to all qualified men, either Indian or European; and, secondly, that due provision will be made for the purpose of enabling Indian students to carry on postgraduate research work.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: Mr. D. C. Ghose has moved in the way of amendment a reduction of the grant under "32—Medical" by Rs. 95,000. If I have understood him rightly, I find that he is resenting the treatment that has been meted out to Indians in this institution and that is what has actuated him to bring this proposal. I take it that he has no objection to the institution itself and, if he had, he would have taken a different tune in his speech. So far as regards the differential treatment meted out to the different communities in connection with the staff of that excellent institution, I must say that I have great sympathy with what Mr. Ghose has said. But I shall be the first person to stand here and to ask with all the emphasis that I can command for any grant for an institution like the Tropical School. The Tropical School, when it was first inaugurated in Calcutta, was taken by us as one for which we, the people of Calcutta, may well congratulate ourselves. In India there are only two places in which such institutions have been established, namely, Calcutta and Bombay; and what has been the result of that? Our boys, who had to go outside India, to Europe and to other distant places for tropical medical education, now get the same education here in Calcutta or in Bombay. Is that not a great advantage? If Rs. 1,95,000 is asked for in the course of one year for such a noble cause, I do not think anybody need object to it. This institution has been instrumental in the discovery of emetine and the cholera treatment. It must be said to the credit of the great scientist, Sir Leonard Rogers, that his name has already become a household name in India and other parts of the world also. And why? Because he discovered emetine and the cholera treatment. And where did he discover them? Within the walls of the Tropical School of Medicine. Therefore if it costs few lakhs of rupees, that money will be very well spent. Thousands and thousands of lives have been saved by the injection of emetine and from the grip of cholera; and as to those who object to the grant, I would ask them to take these

things into consideration. As I have already said, I am not an admirer of the system that now prevails as regards the personnel of the institution but, whatever that may be, whenever there is a proposal for the improvement of the Tropical School of Medicine, I believe that the Council would do a very unwise act in opposing it.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I oppose the amendment. But I must say there is some ground for the dissatisfaction expressed by Mr. D. C. Ghose. I cannot but express the deep gratitude of the people of India towards those great gentlemen, those great doctors like Sir Leonard Rogers, who found out the cholera treatment and emetine, and who are on the high road to discover a satisfactory treatment for leprosy. Dr. Sudhamoy Ghose was one of the students sent by the Scientific and Industrial Association and in him I am deeply interested. He was mentioned with high praise at Delhi in the Imperial Assembly as having done excellent work in connection with Sir Leonard Rogers' researches, but he has not yet been made permanent. He could have got a professorship in the Imperial Service in any college, as most of the D.Sc. students have got, but his claims have been hitherto overlooked. I do hope that his claims will not be overlooked. I do not object to the very best scientist of Europe being brought to India in the research of tropical diseases. If there are great doctors and great scientists in India, let them be. They will have ample opportunities of working. But for the present let us have the highest intellect, no matter what it may cost, from Europe to investigate into tropical diseases. I would not therefore for one moment strike out a single rupee from the amount budgeted or which may be required or demanded by Sir Leonard Rogers in future.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I must say that I sympathise with the observations of my friend Mr. D. C. Ghose and I understand that the object of his motion is to bring to notice certain grievances. These grievances will be most sympathetically considered by Government. I may say at once that my friend is under some misapprehension, and I may assure him that the doors of the Tropical School and the professorial chairs will be open to all qualified men—Indians, Europeans or persons of whatever, nationality. Merit shall be the sole test of qualification. The best men will be employed and I hope the necessary funds will be forthcoming. I hope the country will subscribe in aid of an institution so full of potentialities for good and it will be an institution, upon which I am quite sure the eyes of mankind will be centred, for the simple reason that investigations into tropical diseases conducted in India will be conducted under conditions which exist no where else, and therefore are likely to be fruitful of the best results.

Then with regard to the workers engaged in research I may point out that there are already in the school several who do not belong to the

Indian Medical Service. For instance, there is Dr. Jotiprokash Bose, who is now in England, and there is Dr. Muir, who does not belong to the Indian Medical Service. Let me again repeat the assurance already given, namely, that merit shall be the sole test of qualification for appointments in the Tropical Institute and, so far as research scholars are concerned, there will be no distinction of race, colour or creed. I hope with this assurance my friend will see his way to withdraw the motion.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I gladly withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The demand for grant under the head "32—Medical" was then put to the vote and carried.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC HEALTH (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): I beg to ask for a grant of Rs. 18,50,000 under the head "Sanitation" or more properly, to use the modern phraseology, "Public Health."

The total estimate for next year is the record figure of Rs. 19,46,000, or Rs. 9,50,000 more than the sum provided for in the revised estimate for the current year. It will interest the Council to trace the steady rise in the actual expenditure since sanitation was made a major head in 1917-18. I do not mean to say that the expenditure is what it should be, but there has been a steady rise—a steady expansion—in the expenditure upon Public Health and that is the most satisfactory feature of the Budget. I will give the figure now. It was in 1917, Rs. 4,69,000; it rose next year to Rs. 7,51,000 and, in 1919-20, to Rs. 14,12,278, and now as I have already stated, we are budgeting for Rs. 19,46,000 for 1921-22. Large as the amount is, it is still far short of the needs of the Presidency.

Of the total provision, Rs. 96,000 only is non-voted and the rest voted. Altogether Rs. 7,82,000 has been provided for works of sanitary improvement. Of this sum, about Rs. 6,00,000 is for sanitary engineering works, such as drainage and water-supply, and for the rest Rs. 1,25,000 is for charges of recurring nature, viz., Rs. 50,000 for the Calcutta fringe area drainage and for the Calcutta sewerage experiment, and Rs. 75,000 for the distribution of quinine in the mufassal. The latter is one of our weapons in the fight against malaria. Besides this, the Irrigation Department budget includes provision for anti-malarial drainage schemes, which Government will either carry out entirely at its own cost or will help with a contribution, while Rs. 20,000 has been entered in the Sanitation budget so as to enable a start, to be made with the Bhairab scheme, which is of such large importance to the district of Jessore. In addition to grants, we are, as I explained previously, making ample provision in the Loans budget for loans to enable various anti-malarial schemes in progress (viz., the Arul Bil, Amto, Jabuna and Nawi Sunthi Schemes) to be carried on. Provision has also been made for child-welfare and for propaganda work, aiming at the

dissemination of knowledge of diseases and epidemics, and of the means of preventing them, and the estimate also includes the sums necessary for continuing the campaign against the hookworm disease and investigations into *kala-azar* as well as for anti-stegomyia measures.

I now move "that Rs. 18,50,000 be voted."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I moved "that the demand for Rs. 30,000 for the grant of temporary allowances to the Deputy Sanitary Commissioners be refused."

I must confess, Sir, at the outset that it goes against my grains to have to touch a grant for this most useful Department—the Department of Sanitation. But the question is, whether this allotment of Rs. 30,000 is going to help towards the sanitary improvement of the province or only to give a few thousand rupees to a limited number of officers in the highest grade. Since I sent in this amendment, I am very glad to acknowledge that some of the highest officers of this Department have been good enough to supply me with detailed information about this matter, and some members of this House, whose opinion I value, even went to the length of requesting me to withdraw this amendment. I must confess, Sir, that the information that I got has not been able to convince me that this motion is useless. All I can do is to lay the question in all its bearings before the House and let the House decide the case on its merits.

Sir, why is this grant of Rs. 30,000 wanted? Is it for creating any new posts? No. It is only for giving temporary allowances, *ad interim* allowances, to nine officers, eight of whom are drawing salaries from Rs. 500 to Rs. 700 a month and one Rs. 1,200 a month. I admit, Sir, that they are all highly-qualified men, some, Doctors of Public Health and most of them educated in Great Britain. It has been mentioned to me that all of them are non-I.M.S. officers, and most of them are Indians, and therefore deserve great consideration, but that is not the question before the House. The question is one of high salaries. Are we going to give high salaries to everybody at this rate? It has lately been noticed that there is an extraordinary rise, an extraordinary competition, for increasing the salaries in the higher services. That has got to be stopped. A standard of salary has got to be fixed and we must make a beginning somewhere. It is true that the Deputy Sanitary Commissioners are just as well qualified, nay, some of them better qualified than the average I.M.S. officers, who get a larger scale of pay and whose posts are pensionable, whereas these posts are non-pensionable. Because, in this Council, we have no right to touch the salaries of the I.M.S. officers, is it any reason why we should not touch the salaries of other officers, where we can show that the standard is really too high? Personally, Sir, I think, that it is a great humiliation to this Council, and to this province also, that we have to entertain a number of officers in this province, about whose pay the members of this Council have no right to say anything. I think that the time is not far distant when this

Council may have the right to touch the salaries of the Imperial Service men, and I have not the least doubt what the Council will say. Because we are helpless in one matter, that is no reason why we should be helpless in other matters.

Now let us turn our eyes to the case of the nine officers. As far as I can gather from the Civil List, given to us three or four days ago, I find that one of these officers is getting Rs. 1,200, three Rs. 700, two are receiving Rs. 600 and four are getting Rs. 500 a month; and I have also heard that the grade of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner is Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 a month. I find also that two of them were recruited in 1913, three in 1916, three in 1919 and one as late as June 1920. Except the two who were recruited in 1913, that is, just before the war, all of them have been recruited during or after the war, when the prices of commodities had already risen very high. When these officers joined their posts, they knew that the posts were not pensionable; they knew that they would not be allowed to enjoy private practice; they knew that their pay was graded from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000. With all this knowledge, they came into the posts. I submit, Sir, that as most of them came in between 1916 and 1920, no case has been or can be made out to show that they can claim any increase on the score of high prices.

Then, I should like to know, Sir, what is the more urgent, more immediate work, of this Department of Sanitation? The increase of pay of the highest posts or propaganda work in the mufassal? It has been admitted that the ignorance of the common people in matters of sanitation is notorious, and is proving a source of danger to the whole country. Dr. Bentley, the Sanitary Commissioner, with his usual enthusiasm for the improvement of sanitation, has published many leaflets and posters and has had prepared magic-lantern slides for propaganda work. I myself remember to have seen some bioscope films illustrating the lessons of sanitation. Where are those films and slides? Why don't we hear of the slides and films in the mufassal now? Why don't we see propaganda work being carried on? It is not carried on as enthusiastically as before, because of want of funds. Can we raise that cry conscientiously, when we come and see that Rs. 30,000 is going to be provided for nine officers of the Sanitary Department? I ask the Council to seriously consider—Is it proper that money should be lavishly provided for the increase of pay and not for propaganda work? Only three days ago—I think it was on the 14th or 15th of March—we saw in the papers that this bioscope show on sanitary subjects had to be stopped for want of funds. Is it not a shame, Sir, that this most important work had to be stopped for want of funds? Is it not a shame that we cannot utilise the excellent work of the Sanitary Commissioner towards the improvement of sanitation because of want funds? With this Rs. 30,000, we can appoint 25 sub-assistant surgeons, who can tour about the whole province to do propaganda work for the benefit of the people. When we hear that funds are

not available for these purposes, how can we honestly and conscien tiously vote this Rs. 30,000 for the temporary increase of pay of th already highly-paid officers? I have been informed that in other pro vinces of India, they have given these increase, and that we might los the services of these gentlemen if we do not vote this increase. Becaus other provinces have given it, that is no reason why we should give i in the present state of our finances; I believe they could afford it an so they gave it. When we want money for other and important pur poses, I do not know why these gentlemen should threaten us that the would go away? They knew what their prospects were when they join ed the service.

Then, Sir, it has been mentioned also that, if some of these officer went away, we should be in the helpless position of taking I.M.S. me in this Department as in the Tropical School of Medicine, and tha we should have to pay much more for those officers than we are goin to pay for these. Sir, I hope that this Council will be strong enoug to protest against any such step that is threatened to be taken in futu We shall know what to say then, and I am sure of the result. Wit these words, Sir, I submit that I have made a good case for this motion

Before I sit down, I hope, Sir, you will permit me to say a few word about a certain matter which was mentioned by Mr. S. R. Das. I am very sorry to mention it, but I have to mention it because he seeme to insinuate that some of the non-official members made a compact o voting——

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I rise to a point of order. Is the member justi fied in referring to a matter which has no connection with his motion

The PRESIDENT: Speeches must always be relevant.

Colonel A. J. PUGH: I characterise the resolution which th member has moved as useless, and I hope to convince him on that point and I hope to convince him also that this resolution is a waste of tim of the Council. It is a purely reactionary proposal. Most of us ar under the impression that mufassal members are desirous of improvin the health of the residents of the mufassal. Now we have a mufassa member apparently coming here and telling us that it is not necessary Now what are the facts in connection with this particular Department The motion is to disallow the grant of temporary allowances to th Deputy Sanitary Commissioners. The non-I.M.S. Deputy Sanitar Commissioners were appointed in other provinces on a salary of Rs. 50 rising, after 20 years, to Rs. 1,000, with no pension. The Rova Services Commission some years ago took account of the fact that the pay was only two-thirds of the pay of Deputy Sanitary Commissioner belonging to the I.M.S., who had no better qualifications and wh enjoyed the benefit of a pension which is equal to Rs. 300 a month

Therefore the Royal Services Commission made a recommendation that the pay of the non-I.M.S. Deputy Sanitary Commissioners should be reconsidered and that they should get a pension. They have been waiting patiently for it all these years. Meanwhile the I.M.S. officers got an increase of 33½ per cent. and a further Rs. 250 per mensem, so that now an I.M.S. Deputy Sanitary Commissioner gets an initial pay of Rs. 1,000, rising to Rs. 2,220, and pension, whereas, under the old rate, a non-I.M.S. Deputy Sanitary Commissioner with the same qualifications—and perhaps better qualifications and more experience—gets only Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000. Naturally the injustice of this has caused great dissatisfaction, and, in answer to a cable from the Government of India, the Secretary of State sanctioned a proposal to allow the non-I.M.S. Deputy Sanitary Commissioners 33·3 per cent. increase as a temporary measure, pending the final consideration of their claims, with retrospective effect from the 30th July, 1920.

Now all the other provinces in India have granted an increase, with the exception of Bengal, which is more in need of Sanitary officers than any other province. There are ten of these officers in Bengal, and there are two more sanctioned posts, and Rs. 30,000 is required to provide the allowance. If they do not get this allowance, men will leave, because, instead of cutting down the standard of pay of these posts, the other provinces are raising it. The United Provinces and the Punjab are increasing their staff. They are looking out for men, and they are only too anxious to get trained men from Bengal. In Bengal there are one Punjabi, one United Provinces man, one Parsi and seven Bengalis. All these gentlemen have had long training in England, and have first rate qualifications, and, if a temporary allowance were not granted, it would destroy the Department, and that is what the mover of this resolution wants to do. They have been kept together with great difficulty in the hope of getting in the end the consideration which the Public Services Commission promised them over five years ago. With the exception of the Sanitary Commissioner, the staff is purely Indian. Now it is quite obvious that, if the Council refuses this grant, it is tantamount to saying that Bengalis, however good their qualifications, are inferior to the men of any of the other provinces and not worth more than one-third of the pay of an I.M.S. officer doing the same work, who might himself be a Bengali. Therefore, if you pass this resolution, you will be assessing your own countrymen at one-third of the value of the men in other provinces.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I beg to oppose this motion. My experience and that of the learned mover were not alike. I have had opportunities of seeing the work done by the Deputy Sanitary Commissioners. I know they work with zeal and enthusiasm and, at a great sacrifice of their own comforts, go to the interior to look after the sanitation there. They have to do special work in connection

with the anti-malarial campaign or hookworm diseases campaign, or the like, under the orders of the Sanitary Commissioner, the Director of Public Health. They are to take measures for the prevention of outbreaks of cholera or other epidemic diseases. For the last eight years I have been associated with these officers and, from my experience of them, I can confidently ask the Council to vote this grant of Rs. 30,000 for the purpose of increasing their emoluments. Very recently a Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, who was deputed by the Sanitary Commissioner to Midnapore, reported that 80 per cent. of the people there suffered or died from diseases of the spleen. This is a startling fact. When I moved my resolution on child-welfare, I brought to the notice of the Council the work done by these officers and the amount of labour they put into the matters entrusted to them. If we dispense with the services of such men, I will ask the learned mover to tell us, who will look after public health and solve the problem of child-welfare. What is the use of providing a large sum of money in our Budget, if we have no agencies to take measures for the protection of our children? I say that we must have agencies for this purpose and, at present, so far as my information goes, there are only 10 or 12 Deputy Sanitary Commissioners, who are holders of British degrees and who have had scientific training abroad. Are we to refuse an increment of salary and the grant of temporary allowances to these men, who are in charge of most important and difficult work—the work of improving the sanitation of the province and of protecting our children from the ravages of cholera, malaria and other epidemic diseases? Although I admire the spirit with which the motion was moved—the spirit of practising economy in our expenditure—I am sure the learned mover would not have troubled the Council with this motion if he were in possession of the actual facts. It is extremely desirable that these officers, who are moving from place to place and are concerting measures for the preservation of the people from epidemic diseases, should be encouraged not only by the Government, but also by the people. It would be an act of injustice not to sanction this increase to these officers. There is another point. There is no Act, excepting the House and Lodging Act, in our Statute Book, under which such preventive measures may be taken. These men are deputed by the Sanitary Commissioner to go far into the interior of districts and to devise means for the prevention of cholera, malaria and other diseases; they take great pains in drawing up statistics for the information of the public. I am in a position to satisfy the mover that it is eminently desirable that this allowance should be given to these officers. If we do not grant them the allowance, we will be doing them an injustice. We must take into consideration the great responsibilities that lie on their shoulders, and the improvement of public health is a matter of great concern to us. We must show some consideration to those who have thrown themselves whole-heartedly into the work of

improving the sanitation of the province. On these grounds I oppose the motion. I do not know the temper of the House, but I know this, that if it looks to the work done by these officers, it will certainly say that they are entitled to get the allowance which has been provided for them in the Budget and which has been sanctioned by the Government of India and the Secretary of State.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I am sorry that I have got to oppose this motion, and I must confess that I am not convinced with the arguments that have been advanced by my friend the mover. I had the opportunity of discussing this matter with him privately for two or three days and I have heard his speech in the Council. I am sorry to say that, though he has quoted some figures, from the general trend of his argument I do not find that he has been able to make out any case for opposing this grant. The first question is whether these men are capable, the second question is whether they are required, and the third question is whether they are sufficiently paid. These are the three questions that, I think, arise. That they are capable there can be no doubt—that is not disputed. They are our best University men, who have come back after education abroad, and there cannot be any question that they are throwing themselves whole-heartedly into the subject, which is their special study. As regards the sufficiency of the pay, I don't see why my friend is objecting to the increase of the pay of these poor people, when everybody else in this world is going to have an increase. What have these poor people done? Nothing in particular. There is a lurking idea, I am sure, behind this motion that these people don't do anything.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: That is not my idea at all.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: If that has not been his idea, that might have been some other people's idea; that might have been my own idea. They are, so far as I can understand, doing very good work and, above all, they are men who have got enthusiasm. That is the right point of view in specialised work of this description which is of the highest interest to the State. What we want is not a humdrum sort of man, who will come here to do routine work, but a man who loves the country, who has enthusiasm in his heart and who is perfectly willing to throw himself into the situation to the best advantage of the State. If that is so, I don't see any reason why we should stand against their getting any increase, when all the rest of the world has got it or is about to get it. Then I am also sorry to say that my friend does not realise that these men are professional men. They have taken service, but all their aims and aspirations cannot be very much cut down. If I am asked to serve on Rs. 500 a month, would I throw myself whole-heartedly into the work. These men have got their education in England and have come back. They have got their aspirations along with them. If they do not get anything more,

they will go to other provinces. There is no doubt something in the argument of my friend that these people have come knowing full well that they are not eligible for pension and that their prospects are not very good. That is one way of looking at it. There is also another way of looking at it, which is a more sensible view, namely, don't depreciate your own countrymen. Never, for God's sake, if you can help it, depreciate your own men, your graduates, the finest of the lot. They went abroad for education, and have come back here after attaining the best qualifications. They are working here. Are we going to pull them down and say that they are not worth the same amount as I.M.S?. I am not prepared to do it. I should be the last person to depreciate my own countrymen.

Then I wish also, Sir, to submit to this House that very soon other duties will, in the nature of things, come upon them. We are expecting better sanitation; we are taxing for better sanitation; we have every right to do that and we must insist upon it. If we don't pay handsomely, if we don't keep adequate staff and don't have enough officers how can we expect to get work done. This is a nation-building department, as my esteemed and honourable *guru* has said; no better word could be used; and I say that in such a department don't proceed lightheartedly to cut down the expenses. Let that Department grow; let it acquire strength and let the country reap the highest benefit of that. This is all that is desired; for better sanitation is the only question, the first question, and the most important question, in Bengal.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: The general sense of the House as far as I can gather is against the amendment and in favour of the Government view. I do not think that under the circumstances I should be justified in detaining the House at any length but there are one or two points which I desire to emphasise. I will not take many minutes.

The pay of these Deputy Sanitary Commissioners, as has already been pointed out by Colonel Pugh, was fixed in 1912; their scale of pay was Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000, and that scale remains unaltered. The scale of pay in respect of all classes of people, in respect of people doing similar work, has been revised to the advantage of the incumbents. The Indian Medical Service got their pay increased first in 1919 and again later on. These Deputy Sanitary Commissioners and bacteriological officers are men of the same class as the men of the Indian Medical Service and have similar duties to perform, and it is only right and fair that, when relief is going to be given to every employee of ours these people should also get an increase; it is only a temporary allowance. You will find that it has been given in other provinces, in Bihar which is much worse off than we are, in the United Provinces, in Madras, in the Punjab, everywhere, there has been a rise in the emoluments of Deputy Sanitary Commissioners.

As my friend had just pointed out, there is very serious work before them, very important work; the department has to be reorganised and stimulated into fresh and renewed activity. They have very serious and responsible work lying before them; and it is only a temporary increase that we give them. We want to make them happy, contented and satisfied, otherwise their outturn of work will be poor. Having regard to all these circumstances, I hope the House will not accept this amendment, and may I appeal to my friend to withdraw it and not press it to a division.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motion by Maulvi Muhammad Rafique Uddin Khan was withdrawn: "that the demand for Rs. 15,000 for the revision of the establishment of the Public Health Department be reduced to Rs. 5,000."

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur) moved "that a demand for Rs. 19,14,000 be voted by this Council as the grant under the head '34—Agriculture' for the year 1921-22."

This demand includes the expenditure on the Veterinary, Co-operative and Agricultural Departments.

To take the Veterinary Department first. It will be seen that the estimated expenditure for the coming year follows closely the estimated expenditure in the revised Budget for 1920-21. The bulk of the expenditure is incurred under the item "Veterinary Instruction" in connection with the Bengal Veterinary College. The small increase over the revised estimates is due partly to the normal growth of expenditure and partly to the fact that provision has been made for two additional Veterinary Inspectors and 15 additional Veterinary Assistants. Similarly, the Budget of the Co-operative Department follows the revised estimates for the current year, but allowance has been made for the rapid expansion which is taking place in the Department. The number of societies is increasing by leaps and bounds. The increase in the year ending the 30th June last was 1,150, or more than 27 per cent. over the preceding year. The total working capital on the 30th June 1920 reached 2 crores and 82 lakhs. It is clear that with such a large sum at stake the efficiency of the Department must be maintained and the standards of inspection, which Government have laid down, cannot be relaxed. This necessitates an increase in the inspecting staff, proportionate to the increase in the number of societies, and due provision for this has been made.

I must deal at some length with the estimates of the Agricultural Department proper, as an attack has been made on this Department by way of motions for reduction, which, if carried, would bring the activities

of the Department to an end. I confess, Sir, to my feelings of surprise at these motions for the reduction of the grant for the Agricultural Department. In the course of the general discussion on the Budget, attacks were made upon the Ministers, including myself, on the ground that the allotments made for the Departments in our charge were inadequate and I did not anticipate that members of the Council would propose to reduce these grants still further.

The work of the Agricultural Department falls into two main branches, research and demonstration. The former necessarily precedes the latter, but, when research has led to practical results, these must be brought to the notice of the cultivators, and the demonstration work of the Department becomes a matter of the greatest importance. Research work has now been in progress on the Government farm at Dacca for a number of years past and has already been productive of remarkable results. The scientists of the Department naturally turned their attention first to the two main crops of Bengal jute and rice By a process of selection, the Department have produced two varieties of rice, one transplanted *aman* paddy known as *Indrasail* and the other an *aus* paddy known as *Kataktara*. The success of these two seeds is proved by the great demand which exists for them among cultivators. Both the varieties give a yield of about 4 maunds per acre more than the ordinary variety. The area under these two new paddies is estimated at 100,000 acres. The food-supply has, therefore, been increased by 4 lakhs of maunds which, at the moderate estimate of Rs. 3-8 per maund represents Rs. 14,00,000 per annum.

In the case of jute, the variety known as *Kakiya Bombai*, which has been produced at the Dacca Farm, has been definitely proved to yield on the average 3 maunds more per acre than local jute. This variety of jute is now estimated to be grown on approximately 200,000 acres This is equivalent to an increase of Rs. 6,00,000 maunds, which, at Rs. 8 per maund, represents Rs. 48,00,000, and the fibre is of much better quality and fetches a much higher price than local jute. Thus the work of the Department in connection with these two crops alone represents wealth to the country in the shape of increased crops worth Rs. 62,00,000 a year.

The Department has further introduced a new variety of sugarcane, which gives an increase of 5 to 15 maunds of *gur* per acre, and it is popularising Darjeeling seed potatoes and groundnuts, both of which are sources of great potential wealth to the country. It is spreading knowledge about the value of manures and of improved machinery. To make known the results, which it has obtained in every direction, we rely upon propaganda by the officials of the Department, upon demonstrations carried out upon farms maintained for this purpose, upon the distribution of seeds from a network of seed stores and also upon non-official co-operation. We have now District Agricultural Officers in

every district, and are gradually appointing an increased number of demonstrators. We hope eventually to have one demonstrator for each thana in the province. With regard to demonstration farms, it is our policy gradually to establish a farm of this kind in every district in the Presidency. Seed stores have been established in every district head-quarters, and it is proposed to establish them in subdivisional head-quarters as well. As regards non-official co-operation, it is the aim of the Department to establish a network of agricultural associations throughout the province, and much headway has already been made. Thus, in Birbhum, there are 87 branch associations, in Faridpur, 53. In this matter the Director of Agriculture is working in close co-operation with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. I think, Sir, that I have said enough to show that the Agricultural Department has already a record, of which it may be proud, and that there are infinite possibilities of development in the near future. The estimated expenditure for the coming year amounts actually to less than the original estimated expenditure for the current year, though it exceeds the revised estimate. The revised estimate shows a decrease, as compared with the original estimate, owing mainly to the transfer of Rs. 50,000 to the Public Works Department for the construction of farms, to savings under Salaries, due to vacancies, to the transference of the provision of pay for certain technical staff to the head "35—Industries," to the non-utilisation in full of the provision for the Sericultural Nurseries at Bholaghat. The estimate for 1921-22 makes a larger provision for the purchase of cattle, distribution of paddy seed, and for an increased grant under "Sericulture and Contingencies." Provision has also been made for the appointment of a Deputy Director of Agriculture and a Deputy Director of Sericulture. As notices have been given of motions for omitting the allotment for these two officers, I shall have an opportunity later of dealing at greater length with the necessity for their appointment. I need only say now that it has long been recognised that the Agricultural Department in this province is greatly under-staffed and that further development of the Department is only possible if an adequate number of superior officers is provided. I think, Sir, that I have said sufficient to show that the Agricultural Department has amply justified itself by the results which it has attained, and that expenditure on this Department will bring an ample return to the province.

As regards the particular items, which certain members wish to reduce, I shall deal with them in detail in replying to the various motions. but I may explain briefly that the item, of Rs. 1,37,000, referred to in motion 108, is for the working expenses of the agricultural farms; Rs. 1,19,000, referred to in motion 114, represents the working expenses of the Sericultural Department, and the estimated receipts from this Department amount to Rs. 90,000. An examination of the Budget will show that the item of Rs. 66,000, referred to in motion 109, is not only

for the distribution of improved seeds, but also for other contingc charges. Only Rs. 15,000 is in fact for the distribution of seeds, wh Rs. 44,000 is to meet the cost of the experimental work of the Depa ment.

The mover of the following motion, being absent, the motion failed

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: "That the demand for Rs. 6,000 for t appointment of a Deputy Director of Agriculture be refused."

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur moved "that t demand for Rs. 6,000 for the appointment of a Deputy Director Agriculture be refused."

Before speaking on the merits of these items, I wish to make so general observations. Formerly this Department, as we all know, w a part of the Department of Land Records. It was then divided i two parts, the Department of Land Records and the Department Agriculture. When the separation was effected, Government appoi ed a Director of Agriculture, and now we have three Deputy Directo If my figures are correct, we have now an establishment of one Direct of Agriculture, who gets a salary of about Rs. 2,000, three Depu Directors, at a monthly cost of Rs 2,600, a Fibre Expert on Rs. 1,45 an Economic Botanist on Rs. 1,100, an Agricultural Chemist on Rs. 50 and a whole host of underlings. In view of this staff, I do not see wl there should be another highly-paid officer as an extra charge on t provincial revenues. So far as I have been able to follow, no case h been made out for this additional post. The question is how can v alleviate the miseries of the illiterate masses or the raiyats by impo ing raw science graduates from England, who have yet to make th acquaintance with paddy or the jute plant. They have no knowled of the vernacular, no smattering either, drawing princely salaries f only writing reports. In Bengal we have already got a top-heavy adm istration. In reading the report of this Department, it has stru me that there is one thing, for which I must give credit to the Depa ment, and that is the work of the demonstration conducted by Indi demonstrators under the supervision of an Indian district agricultu officer. These demonstrations have shown fruitful results in the impr ved quality and outturn of crops shown by experiments upon the lan of the raiyats themselves. This work, I understand, requires no gre vigilance of the Imperial officers for its success and popularity. Th is why, while I oppose the appointment of a Deputy Director on a salar of Rs. 6,000 a year. I also congratulate the Government on the pr vision, however scanty, of Rs. 21,000 for the appointment of 55 demon strators, who are expected to do real and solid work for the benefit o these raiyats.

Is not the comparison of these two figures significant? It is pro posed to have two highly-paid officers on Rs. 17,000, while onl

Rs. 21,000 is provided for 55 demonstrators, which, it is admitted, is for the development of a scheme of work of unquestionable utility. What I further want to point out is that out of the total expenditure of Rs. 13,48,000, for the Department of Agriculture, only Rs. 66,000 is provided for the distribution of improved paddy and jute seed. What is the use of another Deputy Director, if we have provided only this small sum for the distribution of seed? Bengal is divided into three circles, and each circle has already seven District Agricultural Officers, and therefore there is need to strengthen the lower rungs of the ladder, rather than make the top too heavy.

On these grounds, I oppose the demand.

The PRESIDENT: Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq has an identical motion. , therefore, do not call upon him to move his motion but he may take art in the debate.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I do not wish to take up the time f the Council by delivering a lengthy speech, because the motion, of hich I have given notice, is exactly identical with the one just moved. Briefly stated, my reasons, for suggesting that this money shoudl not e voted, are these.

In the first place, I freely admit that the Department of Agriculure admits of great possibilities of expansion, and it is one of the ost useful Departments under the Government, but that is no reason hy money should be spent without, at the same time, planning that e expenditure must be on a productive purpose. In other words, that e money spent must be commensurate with the results obtained. t is no argument to say that the Department is a useful one. We always ail against expenditure on the Police Department. Who can say that he Police Department is not a useful one? The Police Department is ot merely a useful Department, it is one of the most essential and esponsible services under the Government. But when we see in the udget figures like a crore or so, we at once say it is too expensive. I dmit that the Agricultural Department is very useful, but what I have oticed during all those years is this, that, although a very large sum f money is being spent, the corresponding rate of progress is not being hown by the Department. At the present moment there are three Deputy Directors of Agriculture, one for the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions, known as the Western Circle, one for the Chittagong and Dacca Divisions, known as the Eastern Circle, and one for the Rajshahi Division, known as the Northern Circle. So far as I have been able to ather from the departmental report, no good case has been made out or any addition to the cadre. On these very short grounds, I oppose his grant, and I support the motion of Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.

Rai ABINASH CHANDRA BANERJEE Bahadur: I rise to ppose the motion. It has just been said by one of the learned members

of the House that the Agricultural Department is a very useful Depa ment, but he is strongly opposed to the creation of another Depu Director in the Presidency. I think, if the learned member had studi the question in the way which its importance demands, he would r have raised such a frivolous objection as this. I am a cultivator myse I own a farm of my own and have been working for the advancem of agriculture for the last 14 years, and every day I have been feeli the want of some more Deputy Directors, if possible, in this Presiden I remember seven or eight years ago, when I tried to introduce cert new crops in my district of Birbhum, I wanted the help of a super agricultural officer. In those days we had only one District Agric tural Officer in Chinsura in the Burdwan Division, and he was then call the Superintendent of the Agricultural Department, or something li that; there was only one man. I wired him to come to my villag he could not come for seven or eight days together, and I was detain for seven or eight days in my village, simply because I was m anxious to get the benefit of his technical knowledge. Ten years a again, when I wanted to introduce the cultivation of *Indrasail* pad I sent for the District Agricultural Officer. I could not get him, he was engaged in some other part of the district.

Well, as to the work that these Deputy Directors of Agriculture doing and have been doing, I can bear testimony to it and can pro it by facts and figures.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture of the Western Circle, as t learned member remarked in which the Burdwan Division is includ is a gentleman who takes much trouble, and who mixes freely with t tenants, and whom I have seen sowing seeds with his own hand f the benefit of the tenants, in whose interests he is working. Th officers have knowledge that will greatly assist us in the improveme of our agriculture, and I really think their number must be increas If they do not help the improvement of agriculture, I do not know w else will.

For all these reasons, I oppose the motion that has been moved Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.

The PRESIDENT: I think I may be permitted to interrupt t business of the House by putting one matter before the Council. has been suggested that Saturday is not usually a day for a Coun sitting. We are ahead of the time allotted for discussing the Budg by 2½ days, and it was represented to me that it would be very des able not to hold a sitting on Saturday. I therefore wish to ascerta the pleasure of the House by a show of hands. Those who are not favour of a sitting on Saturday will kindly raise their hands. [members were declared to be against a sitting on Saturday, and 21 favour of it].

The PRESIDENT: I shall have to represent the matter to His Excellency the Governor and take his orders on the subject.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: One thing should be remembered. Municipal elections are to take place on Monday; many members of this Council are candidates for seats——

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I also wish to draw attention to the fact that the municipal elections will be held on Monday, and many of us are candidates for election, and wish to participate in the contest which will take place from one end of the city to the other; and most of us, as voters, will be required to attend the polling station at the 25 polling stations in Calcutta. It will be more proper to postpone the business on Monday and sit on Saturday.

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: Is the Council especially intended for Calcutta and its people? We who come from outside to attend the work of the Council for days together——

The PRESIDENT: I have taken the vote of the Council. I cannot allow any more discussion.

Colonel A. J. PUGH: On looking through the agenda paper, I find that out of all the amendments proposed under this head, seven have been moved by Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, one by a zamindar, who at least ought to be in favour of agriculture (Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray), two by Dr. Suhrawardy and two more by Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, an eminent agriculturist.

Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq says that he cannot see the benefits that have already accrued from agriculture. Of course, he cannot see the benefits if he spends most of his time in the High Court instead of in the district of Barisal. That is the reason why he has not been able to see the benefits of agriculture and the effects of improvement in agriculture.

Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur also stated that he was not yet convinced as to the necessity of this appointment. I noticed particularly that while the Hon'ble Minister was delivering his speech in moving for the grant for Agriculture, neither the Rai Bahadur nor Mr. Haq were paying the slightest attention to what was being said. There are a few facts, which, I think, will convince all the members of this Council as to the necessity of this appointment for keeping up the prosperity of the people. I have been reading the Report of the Department of Agriculture, and I find that the departmentally selected rice and jute occupied 250,000 acres and 100,000 acres, respectively, in Bengal. The average increase is 3 maunds and 2 maunds per acre. Therefore, the Bengal cultivator in the last few years is 40 lakhs better off than he was before, owing to the work of the Agricultural Department. This, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq cannot see, because apparently

it does not go to his own pocket. The whole rice and jute crop will be affected, if the work is allowed to go on and not impeded by resolutions such as those on the agenda paper. It will mean that the net income of the cultivators of jute and rice will be increased by the astounding sum of 12 crores per annum. We are asked to postpone this prosperity on grounds of economy. The chief varieties of paddy discovered and distributed by the Agricultural Department are *Indrasail* and *Kataktara*, the latter being discovered by a process of selection. Without careful research, no work of improvement is possible, and a vast amount of skilful research, toil and patience is required to obtain the new varieties.

We see also from the Report on Agriculture that over 2,000 varieties of paddy had to be tested and examined before the *Indrasail* paddy was discovered. This was done under the supervision of the Director and Deputy Directors of Agriculture; and 200 varieties of autumn paddy before the *Kataktara* was evolved. Both these paddies are the descendants of one single ear of corn; and from that single ear of corn the Deputy Directors of Agriculture have been enabled to increase the prosperity of the raiyats by Rs. 40 lakhs; and if they are allowed to go on with these particular seeds along with jute, as I have said, the agricultural prosperity of Bengal will be increased by Rs. 12 crores. Surely, we want more Deputy Directors of Agriculture and not fewer. One of the easiest and obvious ways of improving agriculture is by the introduction of better yielding varieties, especially so for Bengal, where there are small holdings. The Council may be interested to learn that both these seeds, I have already referred to, namely, the *Indrasail* and the *Kakiya Bombai* jute, have both already been obtained. The Bengal raiyat, who knows a great deal more about this subject than the mover of the amendment, is not conservative, and his demand for increased seed is enormous. At Dacca only, there were registered orders for 5,000 maunds of *Kakiya Bombai* jute seed, while the supply of the Department was only 1,000 maunds to meet the demands of the whole of Bengal. You must, therefore, have an organisation to increase the supply of the seed, and the only district that has a sufficient staff is the district of Birbhum. If every district in Bengal were well staffed as Birbhum, you would immediately have to have seven Deputy Directors. At present, except Birbhum, no district has sufficient demonstrators to keep even the Agricultural Officers properly occupied. Demonstrators are no doubt more important than Deputy Directors of Agriculture; but the moment you appoint more demonstrators and more superintendents, more Deputy Directors become necessary. In Eastern Bengal, there are 10 trained District Agricultural Officers and 45 demonstrators, or 55 in all, in a population of 17½ millions, with a cultivated area of 8 million acres. This is equivalent to one trained officer for 800,000 acres, or one trained officer to 1¾ million persons. I venture to suggest that a vote in favour of this amendment is a vote

against the land, the raiyat, and the prosperity and happiness of the people of Bengal.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: I rise to oppose the motions of Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur and Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq. The two arguments that have been advanced by Radha Charan Pal Bahadur in favour of his motion are these: first, that raw European graduates cannot confer any benefits upon the poor raiyats of this Presidency. Now this argument amounts to this, that he objects to the personnel of the individual who is to be appointed as Deputy Director of Agriculture; but it does not deal with the question whether a Deputy Director of Agriculture should or should not be appointed. We all see that all that the Rai Bahadur wants is that raw men should not be appointed and that raw Europeans should not be appointed. Certainly I must say that I would not like to have a raw man, but I would like to have an experienced man; but, if I cannot get an experienced Indian, I would like to have an experienced European. Therefore, the question whether he is a European or an Indian does not affect us at all. What he wants is that he should be an experienced man and this relates to the question of the personnel of the individual to be appointed.

The other part of the argument is that the demonstrators have done very successful work, and the demonstrators are Indians. I do not think the Rai Bahadur wants to suggest that it is only the Indian demonstrators who can be successful in this work. Of course, regard being had to the salary we pay, we cannot expect to have European demonstrators. However, the Rai Bahadur has linked both the words "demonstrator" and "Indian" together. His whole argument amounts to this: The Indians are doing very good work; the Indians are generally demonstrators and the Deputy Directors are generally Europeans; therefore we must not have a Deputy Director; that seems to be the sum and substance of the whole of his reasoning.

Coming to the argument of Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq, we find that he argues like a subtle lawyer as is usual with him. To carry conviction he begins by saying that the Agricultural Department is a very useful department, because he will have to admit that we cannot at once abolish the department altogether; therefore I must ask him to move a resolution for the improvement of agriculture and not for the abolition of the department. Then towards the end of his argument he says: "I have watched very carefully the progress of the department for several years, but I do not find that the results achieved by the department are commensurate with the outlay that we have got to make on this particular department." When I read these resolutions I thought that the learned movers would give us certain facts and figures from which we, as practical men, would be able to find what amount of money had actually been spent and what outturn we had received in return for the outlay. Unfortunately both the speakers

have given their reasonings and arguments in the vaguest manner and in the widest possible language—that the results were not commensurate with the outlay and nothing more than that. That usually is the argument of a subtle lawyer, when he cannot support his argument by facts and figures, putting his case theoretically in the widest possible language. However, we all know that the Deputy Director of Agriculture has combined in him two functions, one being theoretical and the other practical. He has got to do research work; then he has also got certain administrative functions. He has got to supervise the district agricultural officers and the demonstrators and other things. But the movers forget the other side of the work. What I want to impress upon the members of the Council is that research is a condition precedent to the starting of demonstrations. If you want to attach any pecuniary value to the research work, I should say that we, Indians, ought to be ashamed that in a matter like this, intellectual achievements by way of research are to be valued by pecuniary gain. But, we all know that, when a certain amount of money is devoted to research, and certain results are arrived at, the value of the results cannot be estimated in money. Therefore, the learned movers forget the other portion of the work. We have heard from the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture that the persons in charge of research work have been able to discover at least two kinds of crop which have been proved conclusively to be far better than the usual crop which is now sown in the lands of our province.

The learned movers moved their amendments after their speeches and, when I heard the Hon'ble Minister in charge giving out these facts, I anxiously waited for what the movers of the amendments had to say on them, but they carefully avoided answering these points. It appears to me that they did not answer the points because they could not answer them. Therefore, it seems to me that the fruits which have been obtained from the research work are most valuable and we must have sufficient men not only to do the administrative portion of the work, but also to do the theoretical portion of it—I mean the research portion as well; and it is only when researches are conducted properly then we can arrived at successful results —results which can be successfully demonstrated. Certainly, when you are going to have more demonstrators, it seems very necessary to have one more Deputy Director to supervise their work. When we find that we have spent some money over research work and have been able to attain some sort of fruitful results, the temptation will naturally be to devote more money, in order to have more fruitful results. That would be the natural temptation and the natural desire of those who are in charge of the particular department in question, if they want to see the success and not the failure of the department. In this particular case, it has been pointed out by the Hon'ble the Minister in charge that he is anxious to make the department a success; and I think

that we entered this Council at least with the idea that, as in regard to this Department some sort of power has been transferred to us, it must be a success; and, if we want to make it a success we must provide funds for it. The only dispute is about the details. The mover of the amendment says that the demonstrators can do the work and they don't want to have Deputy Directors. It means a question of facts and figures; and I would challenge the movers of the amendments to point out from facts and figures that really the time devoted by these three Deputy Directors is quite enough for the work allotted to them. They have not been able to tell the Council that these three Deputy Directors sit idle as they have got no work to do. They have not been able to do so because they have not got the facts and figures. I do not think that the movers looked into the diary of the Deputy Directors to convince themselves that they were not doing any work. The whole question depends on facts and figures. Are we in possesion of facts and figures in order to enable us to decide whether we do not want to have one more Deputy Director? We have got the suggestion from the Government, and we must presume that they know the necessities of the department; and, unless and until we are convinced by facts and figures that the conclusion of the Government is wrong, certainly we must presume that Government know the necessities of the department and that the grant is absolutely necessary.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: The other day the Council attacked the Ministers, as they had provided a smaller amount than what was necessary for Agriculture and other transferred subjects; and it would have been more consistent with our conduct—conduct of the members of this Council—if we had not brought in this amendment that the grant for the Deputy Director of Agriculture be reduced. I think that agriculture is a necessity for Bengal, and it is borne out by every person who has any acquaintance with the mufassal and not with the town. One of the gentlemen who has brought these motions resides within the precincts of the Marhatta Ditch, and the other was for some time outside Calcutta, but he has been here for a long time; and both of them do not know, I beg to submit, what the requirements of the country are with regard to Agriculture. When the Ministers were driven to the necessity of explaining that after only 12 days of their appointment the Budget was prepared, I think it is obligatory on us now not to cut down any expenditure from the head of Agriculture. Our present action must be consistent with what we did before, and I do not think that that would be the sense of the Council if such an amendment were carried. I think, therefore, that from every direction so far as these amendments are concerned, the Council would be unanimous in rejecting it. I think that the statement that a European is expected to be appointed to the post of Deputy Director is without any foundation. I hope the Hon'ble the Minister will explain whether a

European is going to be appointed. So far as I know, it is an Indian and a very competent Indian who is going to be appointed. I, therefore, think that these motions will be rejected by the Council.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I have to oppose these motions. I think that we have to bear in mind that our Government should not be in a bankrupt condition; and, therefore, we should try our very best to reduce the items in the Budget; but I am afraid that with regard to Agriculture not a pice should be reduced. Have those gentlemen who have proposed this reduction any idea as to how the agricultural work is done by the United States? Have they any idea of what amount of money they spend? I think that the money spent in Bengal is very insignificant; at least four times the money now spent on Agriculture should be spent for the improvement of agriculture of an empire—and Bengal is an empire; Bengal may not be nearly as large as the United States. Do we know the work they do? They have got not only research stations, but the results of research are brought home to every cultivator by the officers of the States. Have we got a machinery of that kind here? I hope that as long as I am here, I shall bring before you the system that prevails in America; and I do hope that a portion of it, at least, should be adopted in this country. It may be that you cannot adopt their expensive methods, because the United States is a very rich country; but something must be done and much more than what is now being done. I know that the work of the Agricultural Department is regarded as very unsatisfactory by the people of this country, notwithstanding the glorious accounts about *Indrasail* and other seeds. I know that every farm is a losing farm. I repeatedly asked, when I was a member of the Legislative Council before, the Agricultural Department to run at least one farm on a commercial basis and to show the people of Bengal that profit can be made by improved agriculture. What they now find is, not profit, but, that great deal of loss is incurred in the farms. Therefore, the people are very dissatisfied and that is the reason why not a single man would take to agriculture. I read in the papers that a Deputy Director of Agriculture said that a Bengali young man could make a decent living on 50 bighas of land; and he gave a very glowing account of Agriculture. Many young men took to it and failed. What does Mr. Smith say to that? It is desirable no doubt that a large number of people should take to Agriculture, but these are the defects which should be remedied. Then the representatives of the people will see that something practical and good is done by the Agricultural Department. But I shall be the last person to cut one pice from the grant for the Agricultural Department; on the other hand I would like to double it, so that we might adopt some of the methods of the American States.

Mr. R. M. WATSON-SMYTH: I beg to move that the question be now put.

The PRESIDENT: I do not think that I should put the motion 'that the question be now put' at this stage. After the Hon'ble Minister has replied, I shall consider such a motion if again moved.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I rise to support the motion. The other day we carried a resolution that an agricultural school should be started at Rajshahi, but instead of any provision for that, I find there are proposals for two new appointments. It is said more research work is necessary, but what good will that do? Will the Deputy Director go to the cultivators, go from house to house and tell them what sort of crops can be raised, what drought-resisting crops can be raised, and such other things. That is a thing which can only be done by demonstrators and not by those who are engaged in theoretical researches. I know a little about agriculture and, I appeal to the Chairman of the Rajshahi District Board who is present here, and I ask him to tell the House what great good the farms have done. Therefore, to my mind demonstration work is what is necessary, but, instead of that, only some high appointments are going to be made. I do not care whether Indians are appointed to the posts or not. But I want a start to be given to a demonstration farm with Rs. 6,000 a year, and local zamindars may also help. I am not aware what sort of research work is necessary and what experiments are to be made. Sums are spent for travelling allowances. These Deputy Directors inspect farms and a few agricultural exhibitions are held, but no real work is done. It is high time that some practical work is done of a nature by which the sons of agriculturists may be profited. With these words I support the motion.

The Council here adjourned.

After the adjournment.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I am sorry I have got to oppose this motion. I do not appreciate the point, from which this motion has been put, because what we all want is that this Department of Agriculture should be a success and that it should move as quickly as possible. If that is so, then I do not understand the policy of making a man a cripple if you want him to move. Next to Sanitation, I think Agriculture is the most important question in this province. We want to make it a success, we want to hold our Ministers responsible for this work, and now, when they come to us for a grant, saying that so much money is wanted, we say that we will not give it to you, but all the same we will hold you responsible for the success of the Department. The result would be that, when we would ask him, "What have you done for your Department?" he would say, "You did not give any money, and so I could not do anything." Sir, I am not going to place in the hands of our Ministers any excuse like that, but to give them every facility to the best of our power and then hold them responsible for their work and ask them to give an account of what they have done.

There is one other matter, to which I would draw the attention of this House, viz , that much of this opposition has come from a very narrow view of the word " Agriculture." Those who are responsible for the opposition—I speak with due deference to my Hon'ble friend—look upon agriculture from that old standpoint that agriculture means sowing a few potatoes and growing a little rice, but they forget that at the present time Agriculture includes many other things besides the growing of rice and potatoes, for instance, it includes such important subjects as horticulture, floriculture, dairy-farming, poultry-keeping, etc. These are the things which we want our young men to take to. Who are there to give them these ideas? Who are there to induce them to take to this sort of work? We want to say to our young men that, if you have got a capital of Rs. 2,500 to start a poultry business with you can earn Rs. 100 a month and you will be saved the trouble of writing applications to office, " Being given to understand that there was a vacancy." This is a necessity, and we must give these ideas to our young men, so that they may take up this sort of vocation in life. My esteemed friend, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, said that he knew agriculture and that much had been done in the Department in the way of agricultural investigations, and that nothing more was required. But I am afraid that he is still sticking to the old ideas of agriculture, which means a cultivator, a small plot of land to cultivate and a couple of wretched bullocks and the scratching of the surface of the earth. That is not agriculture nowadays. It is something quite different. You must look to agriculture from a different point of view.

Then there is another matter in this connection to which I would draw the attention of the Council. Who are the men that give the largest revenue to the country? It is the agriculturists. Why are you so anxious to take away from the grant which is meant to help them? Where is the justification for it? It is the tiller of the soil who contributes the largest possible amount to the State. Are you justified in spending large amounts of money for the Dacca University or the Calcutta University in preference to helping the agriculturists?

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: If I had the right of reply, I could have answered all his points.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: Therefore, I think we ought to be more anxious to give our Ministers all the facilities that they require and hold them to their own ideas, and tell them that we have given you everything you ask for, and, if you have not done anything, we do not want you to remain in office any longer—if you have not done anything you have got to go. That is the whole position, otherwise I do not understand how the Government can go on. You take Rs. 6,000 from here, Rs. 10,000 from there, and Rs. 15,000 from another department. It may not matter much, as we have got a budget of 11 crores,

but it will make the Ministers say that we took away the money and so they could not make any improvements in their respective departments.

Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I had no mind to speak on the subject. But I rise in response to an appeal that has been made to me as the Chairman of the District Board of Rajshahi by my friend, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri. Sir, if I speak, I speak from experience. I am an agriculturist in a small way myself and I have been following it for the last 20 years. If I am the Chairman of the District Board of Rajshahi it is not because that I am a big man, but because the members thought me fit to occupy the post. And I regretfully say that the Deputy Director of Agriculture, who is in charge of the Rajshahi Diivsion, has never yet shown his face to us. That is the sort of person who is appointed Deputy Director. On the other hand, I beg to mention one thing. Some three years ago I asked my servants to cultivate a plot of land, about two or three cottahs, and sow potatoes. They did it in their own way, and what was the result? I got ten seers of potatoes for five seers of seed. So I gave up the idea of cultivating potatoes any longer. Now, a simple demonstrator of an agricultural farm near by somehow came to know of this. He came and saw me and showed me the improved method of sowing potatoes and I am glad to say that from that very plot of land, I had three and a half maunds of potatoes So I say I do not care whether you appoint Deputy Directors or not, but it would be more useful if you appoint low-paid officers who would bring the results of research work on *Indrasail* paddy, etc., to the cultivators. We do not demur to the playment of this amount, but what we want is that we should have more low-paid officers who could go to the interior of villages. If you want to improve agriculture, it is necessary that there should be more low-paid officers who would not mind going into the interior of villages and carry agricultural knowledge to the cultivators. Of course, I do not like to fetter the hands of the Minister if he says that a Deputy Director will be useful, but, at the same time, I must say that it would be more useful to appoint demonstrators.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I did not want to say anything on the subject, but something has been said which demands a reply. The main issue has been confused by an implication that those, who are in support of the motion, are going to do away with or at least diminish the importance of the Department of Agriculture. Sir, I have been associated unofficially with this Department for more than four years. I have looked into the working of the Dacca and Comilla Agricultural farms, I have attended agricultural conferences and I have been hand and glove with many agricultural officers, and I know how the work of the Department is done. My esteemed friend, Babu Surendra Nath Mullick, said that agriculture has entered a new phase, but I should like to ask the House where is the

field for agricultural work? Is it in the head office at Calcutta a Dacca or in the countryside? We want men in the countryside and n in the head office. As regards new paddy and jute seeds I have hea that some of the higher officers wanted to have them grown as expe ments on fields situated along railway lines so that they might be ab to see from railway carriages how the crop prospered and that they d not care to go into the mufassal. Sir, that is not the sort of office we want. We realise that this Department has got to be develope but we want it to be developed along healthy lines. We want men the bottom. We want demonstrators, who would go into the village who would talk to the villagers, who would show them the improve methods of agriculture, and not men who would sit under the electr fans and draw high salaries month by month. With these words, beg to support the motion.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI Khan Bahadur: I oppose this amendment. It has long been recognise that the Agricultural Department of this province is working at a gre disadvantage owing to the shortage of superior officers. In 1916 t Government of India addressed the Government of Bengal on this que tion and suggested that it was desirable to have a Deputy Director Agriculture for each Commissioner's Division and they pointed o that in that case Bengal would require two more Deputy Director The Government of Bengal agreed with the Government of India th two more Deputy Directors were necessary.

In recent years the number of officers in the lower ranks of t Department has been greatly increased. We have now a Superinte dent of Agriculture in every Division, a District Agricultural Offic in every district, and, in certain important subdivisions, new demo strators are being appointed every year. To guide and supervise the officers in their work, an increase in the number of Deputy Directo is essential. The Agricultural Associations, on which we rely so larg ly, as I have already explained for making known to the public t results achieved by the Department, require constant attention in the early years. Further expansion in this direction is not possible on large scale, unless the superior staff of the Department is increase I doubt if the Council are aware how far Bengal has fallen behind oth provinces in the matter of appointment of officers of the Indian Agr cultural Service. In this great province we have only seven posts san tioned for Imperial Officers, including three Deputy Directors. T Central Provinces have 13 such posts, including seven Deputy Dire tors in charge of circles. The United Provinces have 15 Imperi posts sanctioned, including six Deputy Directors. Bihar and Oris have ten Imperial posts, with seven Deputy Directors. Burma has 1 Imperial posts, including 11 Deputy Directors. Madras has no le than 25 Imperial posts, including eight Deputy Directors. The figures will, I think, Sir, convince the Council that the Department

this province is working under a very serious handicap with its meagre staff of seven Imperial Officers, including three Deputy Directors. I trust that they will recognize the necessity of strengthening the Department and will reject this motion.

Before sitting down I wish to refer to the point raised by Rai Radha Charan Pal, that a raw European may be appointed to the post. The selection of an officer has not been considered, but I may point out that Indians are eligible for the post and that the last Deputy Director appointed in Bengal was an Indian. I can only say that whoever is selected he will be a thoroughly qualified officer.

The motion being put, a division was taken, with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ali, Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Chatak, Rai Sahib Nilmani.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh.

NOES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Afzal, Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Maulvi Syed Muksood.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr. C. H
Cathcart, Mr. M.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cochran, Mr. A.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Das, Mr. S. R.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Donald, Mr. J.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Farequi, Mr. K. Q. M.
Chose, Mr D. C.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Hopkyns, Mr W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Lang, Mr. J.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Makramali, Munshi.
Marr, Mr A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray Chaudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Rhodes, Mr. C. W.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. S.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish. Chandra.
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.

The Ayes being 15 and the Noes 69, the motion was lost.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: There are some motions which sta on the agenda against my name, and, before I speak on these motion I wish to make a few remarks preliminary to what I propose to s with regard to the motions themselves.

The PRESIDENT: I have nothing to do with the other motions present. You must confine yourself to the motion which I have call upon you to move.

Maulvi A. K. FAZ-UL HAQ: I am confining myself to the moti which I have been called upon to move.

The PRESIDENT: I do not think I can allow you to make observ tions without first saying whether you move the amendment or wit draw it.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: If I am to withdraw the motion, think under the rules I am entitled to give reasons for so doing. don't think I am doing anything more.

The PRESIDENT: Then I understand that you are withdrawin your motions.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: Yes.

The PRESIDENT: You may now offer any explanation you lik

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: It is with some regret that I am goin to make a little statement by way of a personal explanation, and I thin I owe it to myself and no less to the members of this Council that should make one point clear. For the last few days I have heard it said that these motions have been brought forward by way of spite in orde to thwart the activities of a very important Department of Government I would not have cared to take notice of remarks like these, but only a fe minutes ago remarks have been made by a gentleman who attribute these motions to a bad motive on my part, but about which I can assur the Hon'ble Minister that there is absolutely no reason to suspect. know, as I said when I moved other motions, that this Department o Agriculture is a very useful Department. I made a free and frank con fession of that fact even in the old Council, not once, but several time when I tried to draw the attention of the Member in charge to th manner in which the responsible officers of that Department were doing their duty. I think that as representatives of the people it is our duty to those, who have sent us here, that we should try to bring to the notice of Government through Members or responsible Ministers what actually the public opinion is on a certain matter. Because a certain motion is made it ought not to be concluded that the mover of the motion is actuated by motives of thwarting the activities of a Department. The motion is made not only to draw the attention of the members of

the Legislative Council, but of the Member or the Minister in charge to the importance of the issues that are raised by the discussions that follow on these motions. It has been said that the Agricultural Department is a Department whose activities lie somewhere outside those places where we generally pass our days and are disassociated from our sphere of activities. Colonel Pugh has said that, if I had taken the opportunity of going to some farms, I would have known what useful work is being done by this Department. I may tell Colonel Pugh that, so far as that particular matter is concerned, he may rest assured that I know my duty. I know my countrymen better than Colonel Pugh is expected to, and I am not wanting in sympathy with my own countrymen. It is not because I have no sympathy for the Department, but because I have the greatest sympathy for this Department that I want to bring the work of this Department into line not merely with modern requirements, but also with the highest standards of efficiency. By bringing to the notice of Government that money is being wasted on certain matters and suggesting that certain expenditure should be curtailed, it was never my intention that the activities of the Department should be thwarted in any particular way.

Colonel Pugh and my friend, Mr. Syed Nasim Ali have both challenged me to bring forward facts. Well, if I had really wanted to move these motions, I would have brought forward certain facts. I may tell Colonel Pugh and others, who are opposed to my motion, that it is not by debating in this Council in an off-hand manner or challenging people to bring forward facts that questions like these can be effectively debated. In the Government reports there is a good deal of mention of the activities of this Department. But let us remember that Government reports cannot alter facts; Government reports cannot make white black and black white, and I say with all the emphasis that I can command that Government reports, even though well written and written by the highest authorities, cannot convince us that 2 and 2 cannot make 4 and black is white and white is black. I have read those reports over and over again, not only with the Departmental reports, but also those reports that issue annually from the head office of the society for the mutual admiration of officials which is situated in the north of Laldighi and popularly called Writers' Buildings, Calcutta. These officials reports do not alter facts, and it is from these official reports that I have gathered my knowledge. I have looked into several of these agricultural farms and I know that this kind of paddy —*Indrasail* paddy—has been a disastrous failure in Bengal; it has been a failure in my own district of Bakarganj, in Rangpur and in many districts, and yet Government persist in saying that that is an improved kind of paddy. This is what I object to.

There seems to be a feeling in the House that the activities of the Department will be thwarted, if we do not grant the money. Therefore I do not object to the grant being given this year, but next year

we will raise this question and we will see what progress is made So far as these motions are concerned, I beg leave to withdraw them

The following motions were then withdrawn:—

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 6,000 fo the appointment of a Deputy Director of Agriculture be refused."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demands under hea '34 B.—Agriculture' be reduced by the reduction of the Budget pr vision given in detailed account '34 B.—Agriculture' of the followin items:—

(*a*) Other gazetted officers from Rs. 43,000 to Rs. 20,000.

(*b*) Technical staff from Rs. 70,000 to Rs. 30,000.

(*c*) Temporary establishment from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 10,000."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand under hea '34 B.—Agriculture' be reduced by the reduction of the provision und head 'Other Supervising Staff' of the following item:—

Travelling allowance from Rs. 1,00,000 to Rs. 20,000.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand under hea '34 B.—Agriculture' be reduced by the omission from the Budget the provision under detailed account '34 B.—Agriculture,' hea 'Experimental Farms':—

Other charges, Rs. 1,37,000."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand under he '34 B.—Agriculture' be reduced by reduction of the Budget provisi under head 'Agricultural Experiments' of the following item:—

Provision for the distribution of improved paddy and jute seed fr Rs. 66,00,000 to Rs. 30,000."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 11,000 the appointment of a Deputy Director of Sericulture be refused."

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: "That the demand for Rs. 11,000 for appointment of a Deputy Director of Sericulture be refused."

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: "That the demand Rs. 11,000 for the appointment of a Deputy Director of Sericulture refused."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY moved "that the dem for Rs. 11,000 for the appointment of a Deputy Director of Sericult te refused."

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, K bahadur: The proposal to appoint a Deputy Director of Sericulture

Bengal has been before the Government for many years. Mr. Lefroy, the well-known Sericultural expert in his report of the silk industry, in India, which was published in 1917, strongly urged the necessity of creating such a post. His proposal was supported by the Bengal Silk Committee, an advisory body consisting of members in close touch with the silk industry of the province. Mr. Lefroy's proposal was accepted by this Government, and, in February 1920, the Secretary of State sanctioned the creation of the post. The work of the Sericultural department is expanding rapidly. As is well-known, the main cause of the decline in the silk industry of Bengal, was the spread of a disease known as "pebrine." The main work of the Sericultural Department is to provide the cultivators with a seed which is free from this disease. Practical demonstrations are also given to the professional rearers who grow seed for sale to the cultivators. The cultivator who buys his seed in the market runs a very great risk of loss from pebrine. If he buys a bad batch of seeds, the disease may destroy as much as 50 per cent. of the worms before they begin to spin. In the case of Government seed, the percentage of disease is less than 2. This is now well-known to the cultivators, with the result that the demand for Government seeds is very much greater than the supply, and is constantly increasing. The receipts from the sale of silk cocoons in 1919-20 amounted to Rs. 84,000 and we estimate receipts for the current year at Rs. 78,000 while for the year 1921-22, the receipts are estimated at Rs. 90,000.

There has recently been an improvement in the condition of the silk industry in Bengal. Its progress may be measured by the fact that the area under mulberry on which the worms feed has increased by 33 per cent. in the last three years. This improvement is partly due to an increase in the price of silk, but it is also in a very large measure due to the confidence which the cultivators feel in the Government seed, and there is every reason to believe that the demand will continue to increase. At present the supervision over this Department is exercised by the Director of Agriculture, but, with the growth of the Department under his charge, it is impossible for him to give adequate supervision to this particular branch. A superior officer with expert knowledge, who can give his whole energies to the work of organising the sericultural industry in Bengal, is absolutely necessary.

In opposing the motion for omitting the provision for a Deputy Director of Agriculture, I dealt with the inadequacy of the superior staff of the department. I need not repeat what I then said, but I may remind members that we have only seven members of the Indian Agricultural Service in Bengal as against ten in Bihar and Orissa, 13 in the Central Provinces, 15 in the United Provinces, 15 in Burma and 25 in Madras. I ask the Council, to reject this motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I beg leave to withdraw my motion, which runs as follows: "That the demand under head '34 B.—Agriculture' be reduced by omission from the Budget of the following item under detailed account '34 B.—Agriculture':—

Other contingent charges, Rs.1,19,000."

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned to Monday, the 21st March, 1921, at 3 P.M., in the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall Calcutta, on Monday, the 21st March, 1921, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Executive Members, the Hon'ble the three Ministers and 102 nominated and elected members.

Voting of Grants.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): Order! Order! the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur) moved "that the amount of Rs. 7,99,000 be voted by this Council as the grant under head '35—Industries' for the year 1921-22."

This covers the demands of the Director of Industries, the Fisheries Department and the Electrical Adviser.

The Department of Industries is a young one, but the necessary officers are being recruited, and in its organisation we are closely following the lines laid down by the Indian Industrial Commission. The functions of the department, as indicated by that commission, are being gradually initiated. The work of the department falls into three main branches. First, there is the development of the knowledge of the natural resources of the province; then the department must encourage by research and demonstration the application of what information they already possess, and what new information it obtains, on an industrial scale. Its third function is to develop the facilities for the training of young men for technical and industrial occupations. As an example of the working of these functions I may take the Calcutta Research Tannery. First, information had to be collected regarding the existing state of the hide trade industry and regarding the tanning materials available in the province. When the information had been obtained, experiments and researches had to be conducted with a view to modifying the existing processes to suit Indian conditions. When good experimental results are obtained, they are applied on a commercial scale in the attached tannery. If these results are successful the processes are published in full detail for the benefit of the trade. Thirdly, during all this experimental work and in the application of the experimental

results young men are being trained along the best lines in tanning-chemistry and in practical tanning. Tanning, however, is only one industry, but as funds are available other industries will be taken up and dealt with on similar lines. As is natural in the case of a department which is only just being organised, the estimates of expenditure for the coming year show a considerable increase over the estimates for the current year. This is accounted for largely by the filling up of the posts required for the working of the department and by the transfer to the Director of Industries of the expenditure incurred on the School of Art, the Survey School at Maynamati and the technical and industrial schools, which were formerly shown in the Education Budget. In addition, there is a lump provision of Rs. 1,20,000 for the development of industries. There is also a demand for Rs. 79,000 for the development of evening classes in the mining centres of Bengal I shall have an opportunity of explaining this demand more fully in replying to the motion, of which notice has been given, for the omission of this sum. I need only say now that in view of the general demand for vocational education, I hope that the Council will vote the grant proposed.

The estimate for the Fisheries Department amounts to Rs. 54,000 Notice has been given of a motion to omit this estimate, and in replying to that motion I shall deal more fully with the work and prospects of the Fisheries Department.

The estimates for the Electrical Adviser and his staff are now shown under the head "Industries" instead of under head "41—Civil Works—Public Works Department," as the establishment has been transferred to the control of the Director of Industries.

I ask the Council, Sir, to vote the demand for Rs. 7,99,000 under head "35—Industries."

The PRESIDENT: The next motion (No. 116) of Babu Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta has been inserted in the List of Business by mistake, for we are informed that the demand for Rs. 5,000 for revision of pay of the Electric Inspector is a non-voted item.

The next item (No. 117) will come under "41—Civil Estimates." I therefore pass it over.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I beg to withdraw my motion.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn: "That the demand under the head '35—Industries' be reduced by the omission of the provision of Rs. 79,000 for development of evening classes at the mining centres in Bengal."

Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA moved "that the demand for Rs. 54,000 (detailed account No. 35 B.—Fisheries) be refused."

It appears that this Department of Fisheries was started in December, 1911. Before that there was no such department, and since

1911 up till now it appears from official papers and also from the answer that was given by the Hon'ble the Minister to the question put by my friend Babu Surendra Nath Mullick that up till now Rs. 3,82,450 has been spent upon this department, and, I may add, without any appreciable return; and it strikes me that this department, however useful it may be to other provinces, is not at all useful to this province. Sir, we, Bengalis, are a fish-eating people, we know the food value of fish, and we want that the supply of fish should be abundant; but at the same time we cannot afford to see that money should be wasted and without any adequate return. Sir, the organisation of a department like the Fisheries Department may be desirable where there is maritime or foreshore fishery. Now, in order to maintain this department, it seems that the province of Bengal and the province of Bihar and Orissa have been tacked together, and the same Director has to work for these two provinces. Something can be said in support of the existence of this department for Bihar and Orissa, because you know there are foreshore fisheries at Balasore, at Puri and other sea-coast towns and also there is an important fishery at Chilka Lake; but, as far as this province is concerned, there is no foreshore or estuarian fishery. All the fisheries are riparian. As far as the deltaic area is concerned, we know that the fish supply was quite abundant, but, Sir, in an important and growing town like Calcutta the supply may be at times scanty on account of the difficulties of transport. It cannot be said that in Bengal there is paucity of fish, but I confess that, as our old ideas have changed, the protection of fisheries has become a thing of the past. We have become more voracious. We do not care for certain periods which are called close seasons. Now, according to our Hindu ideas, we in former days used to observe strictly these close periods and these are the periods for breeding, but with the dissipation of that idea now the fish supply has become limited, and that is not the only reason, and with a good deal of hesitation I want to draw your attention to the fact that in the rivers the constant steamer traffic has also interfered with the rearing and the breeding of fish. Now, Sir, it strikes me that there is very little room for the development of Sunderbans fishery. I have carefully gone through the official reports about these fisheries. It seems to me that all the efforts up till now put forth have been directed towards Bihar and Orissa and the real difficulty appears to me to be this. Of course, I would be the last man to ask this House to vote out any sum which may be considered as capital laid out for future profit, but, Sir, there is no chance for future profit, because in these Bengal rivers the fishery rights are generally permanently settled and belong to private parties. There may be some belonging to Government, and these rights are farmed out or leased out to private parties. So, where is the room for the development of this department in the province of Bengal? I am not speaking in general, nor am I speaking of other provinces. For instance, I can

well understand that the Fishery Department in Madras is a very important department, and there are many workshops for the manufacture of fish oil started in Madras, and there is a very good chance for the development of that industry in the province of Madras, but in Bengal I submit that there is no such chance. Then, Sir, the real difficulty with regard to the fish supply is that these fishermen constitute a class of people who are extremely poor, extremely uneducated and they are entirely helpless. Now to improve their condition we have two other departments, which have to work with very great zeal—I mean the Department of Co-operative Credit Societies and the Department of Education. For want of education these fishermen do not grow beyond their traditional ideas. Then for want of funds they are so very poor that they cannot make two ends meet and most of the fishermen—the *jelias*—give up their own paternal profession and take to agriculture, if land be available. The reason is not far to seek because whatever they earn is ruthlessly exploited by middlemen, and in order to put a stop to this the work of the Co-operative Credit Societies Department is most welcome. Now that the Department of Co-operative Credit Societies has been made permanent by the Secretary of State, it can be expected, that the department will work for the good and benefit of the fishermen. So the Council will see that as far as this province is concerned, this department has been a losing concern from the very beginning, and there is very little chance of its future development. Money has been wasted. This post of Director of Fisheries has been lying vacant for some length of time But it may be said that we want research work, and we want some experiment. If that is desirable, I think that can be done as a part of the Agricultural Department, and also as a part of the Education Department, but a separate Department of Fisheries, with a Director of Fisheries drawing a large salary, is not necessary for this province Of course it has been said by a friend of mine that Bengal is an advanced and civilized province and that every civilized Government ought to encourage an industry like this. If that be the consideration, I have very little to say; but, Sir, that is not the consideration. We have fallen on evil times. We should try our best to effect retrenchment wherever possible. If the members are all convinced that this department has a great future before it, that this department will tend to the abundant supply of fish, and that it will in the long run bring in a large amount of revenue to our coffers, I would not have the slightest objection to the continuance of this department. But from facts, which appear on the face of official reports, and from the facts which we ourselves know living in villages, living in the mufassal, living in the riparian districts—we know something of the life, the habits and the condition of the fishermen, who supply us with fish—I know that this department is perfectly useless, and, if any department can be of any use in organising these fishermen into a class of labourers

or industrials, or will bring in some appreciable amount of money to the country, or will bring comforts to the fishermen themselves, I think that department is the Department of Co-operative Credit Societies. We want much propaganda work on the part of the Co-operative Credit Societies Department to go to villages, where these fishermen live, and it may be that zamindars will be induced to advance a little money or a little capital to these fishermen, who for want of money cannot work properly. I have a number of fishermen as tenants under me. They are extremely poor. They cannot even pay their rents. They do not know what it is to have a full meal from year's end to year's end. So they hanker after lands, but lands are not easily available. They cannot even turn to agriculture, though they like it very much, and the help that you can render to these fishermen is to organise them, to give them some capital to start fisheries, and to help them as much as possible by removing the middlemen, the profiteers. These middlemen advance small sums of money to these poor fishermen, and take away all the fish they catch, and sell it at a very high price and they manage to send it to Calcutta. I refer to the difficulty of transport, but that difficulty has been to a great extent removed by the cold storage system, which has been introduced. I think that with the development of railways in the province this difficulty will be further reduced, but all that is necessary is to give these poor fishermen some primary education by publishing leaflets in very common Bengali explaining the proper principles of pisciculture in order that they may take advantage of the scientific knowledge gained by experiments or research work in other parts of the world. This can be done by the Department of Education or Co-operative Credit Societies. There will be no necessity for a Department of Fisheries. Besides the departments I have mentioned, there is the Department of Agriculture, which is quite competent to look after the interests of the poor fishermen. My motion is based upon the consideration that during the last nine years we have spent Rs. 3,82,450 and have not derived any benefit therefrom. My suggestion is that in this year of our financial deficit we should not and we cannot spend Rs. 54,000 for a department which will give us no return and which gives us no promise of any future development. With these few words, I commend my amendment to the acceptance of this House.

Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur: I beg to support the motion and I beg to lay before the Council a few facts which have induced me to support the motion.

In July 1906, Sir (then Mr.) K. G. Gupta was placed on special duty by Government to make an inquiry regarding the fisheries of Bengal and its fish supply. He submitted his report on 20th February, 1907, and he suggested " a constitution after the model of the Scottish Fisheries Board " and also adequate provision for the furtherance of

scientific investigation into matters relating to fisheries. Mr. Gup was succeeded by Mr. Ahmad, and the work was continued withou any appreciable result. In May, 1917, the Department of Fisheri was inaugurated as a separate department, the object of the depar ment being twofold, namely—

(1) the increase in the number of fish available; and
(2) the organization of the trade in fish.

As regards the first, there has been a sad failure; the departmen did what had been done and is being done by private traders, viz supplying carp fry for cultivation in tanks. If the department ha supplied guaranteed fry—scientifically tested—there would have bee some justification for the expenses incurred by the Government. question asked in the Bengal Legislative Council elicited the fact th the carp fry supplied to the public by the department was not eve tested under a microscopic examination to obviate the charge of mi ing up varieties. Thus the fry supply of the department was in no wa superior to the fry supply in the hands of ordinary private traders, an I may tell you, Sir, that in most cases, the department made purchas of the fry from the private traders.

As regards the organization of the trade in fish, let us see wh Mr. Southwell, Deputy Director, said in his report in 1917—I quote h own words: "The Calcutta fish-kings have agents everywhere throug out the province. These agents make advances of money to fisherme The fishermen repay in fish the value of which is determined by th agent, who also keeps the account and forwards the fish to Calcutt As a rule the fishermen are badly in debt to the agent or *mahajan*, an it is for this reason, amongst others, that even when willing (which i seldom), they are unable to break free from the *nikari*."

The co-operative system suggested itself a remedy. But the diff culties of introducing co-operation among the fishermen were illustrat by the Rajmehal experiment, which resulted in the fishermen turnin themselves into middlemen.

In despair, Mr. Southwell said that the conditions will be improve only—I quote his own words—"when fishermen are educated and trained and when the moneyed classes of the province are ready and willing t interest themselves in the matter by providing the organization, th capital, and the banking facilities necessary to develop an industry which is of the greatest possible importance to all sections of th community."

But if we have to wait for the education of the fishermen and th enlightened interest of the moneyed classes, we cannot expect to se any general reduction in the price of fish in our own time or in the rea future.

As the department has not been able to show a record of useful work I feel bound to oppose the demand.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: This is a subject to which nothing new need be added. So far as I know, this department serves no useful purpose for Bengal. Even in England, I hear, they have agriculture and fisheries under one department. I cannot understand, why, if anything is to be done, it cannot be done by the Agricultural Department. Babu Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta has said all that should be said. I appeal to the Hon'ble the Minister in charge to consider whether this department should be retained. He, as an inhabitant of the Eastern Districts, knows full well what useful purpose is served by this department. I hope the unnecessary expenditure will be cut down. With these few words, I support the amendment.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I have the disagreeable task of having to oppose this amendment. Is it known to the gentlemen who are trying to abolish the Fisheries Department that there is no civilized country in the world, in which there is not this department? Do they know that in the Empire of Austria it was the Fisheries Department that was the most lucrative department in the whole Empire? Do they know how the fisheries of this country may be developed to the great and lasting benefit of the country? Do they know that in every State of the United States of America there is a Fisheries Department? My friend Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri said that the Fisheries and Agriculture Departments in England are one. They may be one there. Is that a reason for abolishing it? Now, Sir, one of these gentlemen has said that, if ours is a civilized Government, we must have a Fisheries Department, but the reply was that we are not a civilized Government and we should not have one. Now, Sir, if we, poor people, are to be troubled in this fashion, I shall be very sorry indeed.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I think I can claim to be a civlized man, and after all, I am also a fish-eater, but I am opposed to this grant for the simple reason that for all these nine, or I suppose fifteen years, ever since this department was started, it has done no good either to the fish or the fish-eater. The only good that it has done is to those gentlemen, who are employed in this department, and therefore this is a department that stands absolutely self-condemned. From time to time, efforts, misguided, even mischievous, were made; for instance, when they started the *Golden Crown* to bring salt fish into Calcutta. This was done from want of information and stupendous ignorance as regards the habits of the people of this country; not knowing, or possibly not caring to know, that we, as a nation, are opposed to eating salt fish; we do not like them, but still we are being provided with them! These erratic efforts led to no benefit to the people——

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: That is no reason for abolishing the department.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: It is no reason certainl but it is a reason to prevent waste. Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose under the impression that we should have a Fisheries Departmen whether the money is wasted or not. Just because this is a civiliz country, there must be empty show bottles in the windows in the sha of a Fisheries Department. I am certainly opposed to this. Why mu we keep a Fisheries Department just because of an empty show bott make-believe? If we must keep this department, keep it in a way which it can be of use to everybody. I am one of those whom m hon'ble friend Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose began by saying that was very much annoyed to find himself opposed to. I do not want oppose other things, but I would certainly oppose this grant f Rs. 50,000 which is of no use either to the fish or the fish-eater. R Jogendra Chunder Ghose said, why abolish it? That is not the que tion. The question is whether we should give this additional gran May I ask if this is the whole of the money required, or only an ad tional grant?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHUR Khan Bahadur: This is the whole amount.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: If this is the total amoun I am straightway for its abolition; it is a mere waste of money abs lutely. It has been given a trial for 15 years, and it has been foun sadly wanting. Is there any solid reason for incurring any furth expenditure in this direction?

The whole thing started in this way. Mr. K. G. Gupta was to l given an appointment; there was no appointment to give him. T department was formed, and he was put in charge of it; it has contin since then. That is the real thing. In this Government, once thing is started, it goes on, whether it is desirable or not. Th department has failed in its object, which is to increase the supply fish, to organise better methods of transport, and therefore it has n been able to do any good at all. Therefore, without any compunctio I oppose this grant altogether.

Mr. S. R. DAS: I only desire to say a few words on this subjec because I am sorry to find that there are so many speakers suppor in a motion for a reduction of this grant. I do not think these member who supported this motion will deny that a good deal can be done i this department, that a good deal can be done not only to increase th supply of fish as well as the means of transport, but to make the depar ment a paying one, if properly looked after. Now, assuming, I do n know myself, that nothing has been done in the past at all, assumin for a moment that the speakers are entirely in the right in saying th money has been wasted for the past nine years; we have now a reforme Government, we have our own Ministers in charge, we are going t

ve a Standing Committee for this department, and in the circumances, do the members consider it right to abolish the whole department altogether without giving the new Minister and the Standing Committee an opportunity of showing that something can be done? If at e end of this year nothing has been done, then the department can abolished. But I would ask the members to remember that this otion really means the abolition of the department. It is not an additional grant that is asked for.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I wish to point out one thing to the ouse. It has been said that there is no civilized government where ere is not a Department of Fisheries. That is quite true, but, so far my information goes, there is nowhere a separate department for sheries; everywhere the work of this department is being done by ficers of the Agricultural Department. This is so in England, where ere is a Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. What we propose is this: at this department must go; this window-dressing must cease, and the ork that is being done by officers of the Fisheries Department must enceforth be done by the officers of the Agricultural Department. That n easily be arranged, because I maintain that, in spite of the adverse ote recorded a few days ago, the officers of the Agricultural Department have not got enough work to do.

With these few words, I support this motion.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, han Bahadur: The Fisheries Department has for the last two or three ears been labouring under great disadvantages in the matter of its uperior staff, which consists of a Director and two Superintendents. n 1917, Mr. Mohsin, one of the Superintendents, resigned his appointment. In 1918, Mr. Southwell broke down in health and went on long eave, ultimately resigning his appointment on medical grounds. Mr. B. Das, the other Superintendent, died of cholera in September, 919, and Dr. Beni Prosad, Mr. Mohsin's successor, who was appointed o officiate for Mr. Southwell, left the department for a better post as Assistant Superintendent of the Zoological Survey of India. The uperior staff of the department now consists of one probationary Superintendent. The duties of the Director are being carried on by he Director of Agriculture.

In spite of being thus handicapped the department has done much useful work. It is reported that the important and difficult problem of breeding carp in confined waters is approaching solution. The scheme for distributing fry is gaining increasing popularity. In the last season 517,000 fry were distributed to the public and orders for 200,000 more were received too late for compliance. The scheme for a carp-breeding station is practically ready, but must await the appointment of a new Director.

As in the case of the Agricultural Department, so with the Fisheries Department, research must precede demonstration. Up to the present the Department has been largely engaged in research. It is in the stage of propaganda and demonstration that the work of the department will become known to the public and be appreciated by them. In a province, where fish forms such an important part of the diet of the people, an efficient Department of Fisheries has great openings and may do work of inestimable value to the people. It is in this belief that we are now reorganizing the Department. We have asked the Secretary of State to recruit an Expert for the post of Director and we have advertised for a new Superintendent.

Three days ago, however, we received certain information which will involve a reconsideration of our plans. Hitherto the cost of the superior staff has been shared between this Government and the Government of Bihar and Orissa. The Government of Bihar and Orissa have now intimated to us that they are unable in future years to bear any part of this expenditure. In view of this decision we shall have to consider the whole question of the permanent organization of the Fisheries Department As this information was only received three days ago, it has not been possible to go into the matter yet. But I may point out that, even if it is decided to abolish the department altogether, or to reorganize it on a more modest scale, some expenditure will necessarily be incurred. To those officers, whose posts are to be abolished, some period of notice must be given, and permanent officers of the department, whose services may be dispensed with, will be entitled to gratuities or pensions according to the length of their service. This motion, if carried, will mean that we have no money at our disposal even for such unavoidable expenditure. I may point out that payment for the services of officers rendered in March is made in April and that, if the motion is carried, its effect would be that no money would be available to meet the pay already earned. I therefore ask the Council to reject the motion, and in doing so I may point out that the whole question of the retention and reorganization of the Fisheries Department will be laid before the Standing Committee.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: May I ask the Hon'ble Member to state any individual, single or specific good work done by this department?

The PRESIDENT: That is too general a question, and I cannot allow it.

The motion being put, a division was taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Afzal, Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M.
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ali, Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.

Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Faroqui Mr. K. G. M.
Chatak, Rai Sahib Nilmani.
Haq, Maulvi A. K Fazl-ul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray, Babu Bhabendra Chandra.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh.
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.

NOES.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr. C. H.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cochran, Mr. A.
Das, Mr. S. R.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Donald, Mr. J.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Chose, Mr. D. C.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Cordon, Mr. A. D.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Hopkyns, Mr W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Makramali, Munshi.
Marr, Mr. A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Rhodes, Mr. C. W.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 43 and the Noes 45, the motion was lost.

The original motion was then put to the vote and agreed to.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr) moved "that a sum of Rs. 2,08,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '37—Miscellaneous.'"

It will be observed that I am not asking for the full amount of Rs. 3,70,000 as shown in the Civil Estimates and in the List of Business under this head. I have cut out the provision of Rs. 1,62,000 for the Steam Boiler Commission. This item has not escaped the eagle eye of my friend Babu Surendra Nath Ray, and, as it seems to have raised a certain amount of interest, I may briefly say what the present position is with regard to this matter.

The Steam Boiler Commission of Bengal is a very old body dating back to 1863. Up till that year there were no arrangements for the inspection or testing of boilers, but in that year there was a very serious explosion in the Great Eastern Hotel, Calcutta, resulting in a

considerable loss of life. This caused a strong public demand for an authority, which should test boilers before they were brought into use, and inspect them periodically to see that they were in a safe condition. The Calcutta Boiler Commission was accordingly set up in 1864 for this purpose. The Commissioner of Police has always been the Chairman of the Commission, and it is what is called a local fund; that is to say, it administers its own revenues and pays its own staff out of the fees which it collects for the inspection of boilers. These fees have generally exceeded the expenditure, and at the present time the Commission has a surplus of over Rs. 2,00,000. One of the incidental results of taking over the Commission's work by the local Government would have been that we should get this surplus, and we should of course take care to see that the department should continue to pay its own expenses, but of course, the financial aspect of the case is not so important as that of the public safety. The arrangements for boiler inspection in different parts of India vary very much. Bengal is the only province, except Burma, where the work is entirely in the hands of an independent body. In Bombay, the administrative work is in the hands of a commission, but the financial part of the business is managed by the Government. Elsewhere, I think, the whole thing is run by Government. Both the Public Services Commission and the Industrial Commission condemned the haphazard arrangements which exist in different provinces in India, and recommended that boiler inspection should be regarded as a function of the local Government, in the same way as factory inspection is. The Government of India accordingly appointed a committee in the beginning of last cold weather to go round the different provinces and submit a scheme for co-ordinating the work of the Boiler Commissions in different parts of India. The committee came to Calcutta last December, and gave us to understand that we should be prepared to take over this work very early next financial year. This accounts for the provision which we have made in the Budget. The committee, as is the way of committees, is still wandering over the country, and has not yet produced any report. After the receipt of the report, legislation will be necessary, and if, as we understand, that legislation will take place in the Imperial Council, we shall not get a new Act before next September at the earliest. After the Act comes into force, rules will have to be framed, and negotiations entered into with the present Boiler Commission as regards taking over its staff and surplus, and so on, and it will be well on in the financial year before we are called upon to assume any responsibility for the work which is at present done by the Boiler Commission. It may be found advisable to defer any change until the beginning of the next financial year. Anyhow, we see now that we shall not want the whole of this provision put down in the Budget; we may want some of it, but as things are at present, we cannot say how much we shall need.

In these circumstances we think our best course will be to withdraw this demand for the present, and, if necessary, we will come up later on in the year for a supplementary grant.

The remaining items of Rs. 2,08,000 which we now ask the Council to vote are composed of a number of miscellaneous heads mainly connected with industrial subjects. The most important is factory inspection, which accounts for Rs. 91,000, then we have the Smoke Nuisances Commission, which costs Rs. 22,000; and the Rent Controller's Office, Rs. 39,000. Then there is our usual grant to the Asiatic Society the cost of examinations and various other small items

I need not take up the time of the Council by going into further details.

The motion that a sum of Rs. 2,08,000 be granted for Expenditure under the head "37—Miscellaneous" was then put and carried.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea) moved "that a sum of Rs. 12,20,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '41—Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers.'"

The Budget estimate of receipts for the current year was Rs. 1,35,000, which has been raised in the revised estimate to Rs. 1,40,000, while the revenue for 1921-22 has been estimated at Rs. 1,45,000. The fluctuation is slight and calls for no remarks. As regards expenditure, the estimate for 1921-22 is Rs. 12,36,000, of which Rs 12,20,000 are voted. Details for Rs. 10,98,000 are given on page 48 of the Budget Statement. It will be seen that under this head there is a provision of Rs. 1,52,000, which will be placed at the disposal of Divisional Commissioners and District Collectors. As expenditure from the allotment will be debitable to the proper heads, the grants voted by the Council under those heads will be exceeded by the amounts added. I am therefore to ask for the sanction of the Council to the debiting of expenditure from this sum of Rs. 1,52,000 to the proper heads of account, when disbursement is made by Commissioners and Collectors.

The motion was put and agreed to.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur) moved "that a demand of Rs. 1,29,35,000 be voted by this Council as the grant under the head '41—Civil Works (in charge of Public Works Officers)' for the year 1921-22."

The first item is "Civil Buildings," for which the amount is Rs. 71,98,000. This item is made up of items shown in the Public Works Department Budget notes, dated 2nd March, which were placed in the hands of members on that date, and therefore needs no further explanation.

The next item is "Communications," for which a sum of Rs. 6,25,000 is shown as required. Of this sum, Rs. 6,00,000 are required for works in progress.

The principal works in progress are:—Improvement of the Barnes-Mainaguri-Dhupguri Road in the Jalpaiguri district, including the construction of a major bridge over the Jhaldhaka river. The sum required for this work is Rs. 3,50,000. It is part of a scheme of road improvement in this important tea district, which embraces the opening up, not only of tea areas, but also of rice-producing areas, which supply food to the employees of the gardens. Better road communications for the above purposes, as well as for the efficient administration of the district, are an important asset, and the Government of Bengal have decided to proceed with this scheme in so far as funds can be set aside each year.

Other works in progress in the district, involving the metalling and improvement of existing roads, account for Rs. 90,000. A sum of Rs. 30,000 is required for carrying on the metalling of the Hilli-Balurghat Road in the Dinajpur district, which it is proposed to complete, if funds can be found, during the year 1921-22.

The completion of the project for widening the Eden Gardens Road on the Calcutta Maidan and provision of footpaths on each side and the laying of a better surface on the road accounts for Rs. 60,000 of the works in progress. Another work in progress is the improvement of the surfaces of all the Maidan roads by laying tarmacadam instead of relaying the present water-bound macadam surface. For this a sum of Rs. 70,000 is required during the year. There can be no question in view of the heavier loads and faster traffic which the Maidan roads are now required to carry, that the surfaces of all roads must gradually be improved.

A small reserve of Rs. 25,000 is also provided under this head "Communications" for unforeseen minor works.

The next item in the account is "Miscellaneous Public Improvements," for which a sum of Rs. 1,58,000 is provided. This is made up of Rs. 1,50,000 for a work in progress, viz., extending the revetments required for the protection of banks at Surdah and Pabna from the erosion of the Ganges river. The remainder, viz., Rs. 8,000, is for a reserve to meet new minor works as they arise.

For the next item, "Repairs," a sum of Rs. 32,68,000 is provided. This is intended for the repairs and maintenance of buildings, communications and miscellaneous public works which are the property of Government and entrusted to the Public Works Department, for maintenance. It is an important item, for which the provision is none too liberal.

The next item, "Establishment," accounts for Rs. 13,98,000 and is based on the actuals required during the current year and the cost of the same establishment next year.

The last provision is Rs. 2,88,000 under the head "Other Items." This provision is intended to meet the cost of stock and tools and plant, both new supplies and repairs of existing tools.

The Council will observe from the Budget notes put before them relating to both "new works" and "works in progress" that almost the whole of the sum involved under this Budget head is required for the construction and maintenance of buildings required for the various departments of the administration, and that in these matters the work of the Public Works Department is in the nature of an agency; the heads "Communications" and "Miscellaneous Public Improvements" alone being under the administrative control of the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works.

The total of the above provisions amounts to Rs. 1,29,35,000, which the Council is now asked to vote.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY moved "that the demand for Rs. 30,000 on account of cost of increased establishment owing to separation of Roads and Buildings from Irrigation be reduced to Rs. 20,000."

The motion which was sent by me to the Legislative Department was that the demand for Rs. 54,000, on account of cost of the increased establishments owing to separation of Roads and Buildings from Irrigation, be reduced to Rs. 20,000; but in the printed list which we have got from the Legislative Department the demand is put down as Rs. 30,000. You will find, from page 62 of the Budget, that the cost of the Public Works Department on account of the increased establishment owing to separation of Roads and Buildings from Irrigation is Rs. 54,000 (the first item), and I do not know how this amount of Rs. 54,000 was reduced to Rs. 30,000——

The PRESIDENT: Because the rest is non-voted.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: But there is nothing to show in the Budget that the rest is non-voted.

The PRESIDENT: That is owing to a mistake. You are to confine yourself to Rs. 30,000.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I had a talk with Mr. Walsh on Friday last and he told me for the first time that Rs. 24,000 consisted of non-voted items. Unfortunately the Budget was not prepared in a proper way. More attention ought to be paid to its preparation in future.

The PRESIDENT: You accept Rs. 30,000.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: Yes, I accept it. Then, it appears that Rs. 4,500 per month extra is too much for two separate departments, which were formerly also under two Secretaries. Even now, it would be under two Secretaries, and the extra cost, I was told, was

owing to the appointment of Executive Engineers on high pay. Neither do we know whether there is any necessity for such appointments, nor has the Hon'ble the Minister in charge explained to us why these appointments are necessary. As I have already said, both the Irrigation and the Roads and Buildings Departments were under separate Secretaries and they will now also be under separate Secretaries. Then, why this additional establishment? If he gives a satisfactory explanation, then I shall consider whether I should withdraw the motion or not.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: It is desirable that I should explain to the Council the purposes for which a provision of Rs. 54,000 has been made in the Budget. Of this sum, Rs. 30,000 is subject to the vote of the Council, and Babu Surendra Nath Ray desires that this should be reduced to Rs. 20,000.

As no doubt the Council is aware the Public Works Department is concerned with the operations of two branches, viz: "Irrigation" and "Roads and Buildings." The operations of the Irrigation Branch are reserved with Government, while those of the Buildings and Roads Branch are "transferred" to the charge of a Minister. While the operations of the department are clearly divided, the establishment both engineering and ministerial, which carries out and administers the operations, is borne on one common list, and forms part of the subject transferred to the Minister. This does not mean that the Buildings and Roads Branch of the department bears the cost of the establishment employed on irrigation operations, as the Irrigation Branch bears the cost of the establishment employed on its own operations.

It has long been recognised that the arrangement of a joint establishment is unsatisfactory, and the recent introduction of the reformed system of government has emphasised the necessity of complete separation; so that the establishment employed on irrigation operations may be administered by the Member in charge of the reserved branch, while that employed on buildings and roads operations alone may come under the administration of the Minister in charge of that branch.

The proposition for separation has been accepted by the Secretary of State, and it is the intention of Government to give effect to his orders as soon as the requisite number of engineer officers can be secured and necessary Budget provision has been made.

Hitherto there have been three *buildings and roads circles of superintendence, while a fourth †circle, engaged in both buildings and roads and irrigation operations, has been treated as an irrigation circle. As soon as separation takes place, it will be necessary, therefore, to create this fourth circle, which will then be concerned entirely with buildings and roads operations.

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*Presidency Northern. Eastern.
†Central.

Turning to the divisional charges, they are at present 14 in number, of which only 8 are in charge of permanent service officers of the full rank of an Executive Engineer. Two of the divisions, which are of a temporary nature, are in charge of temporary Engineers, while the remaining four divisions are, in consequence of shortage of staff, held by Assistant Executive and Provincial Service Engineers. This arrangement is unsatisfactory, as it weakens the strength of officers whose proper functions are as assistants to Executive Engineers and as Subdivisional Officers. The intention is to provide five additional permanent service officers of the rank of Executive Engineer for divisional charges which number includes one officer to provide for a leave vacancy.

Then again the branch is entitled to a cadre of ten regular service Assistant Executive Engineers, but at present only seven officers of that rank are employed. The deficiency is thus three. The intention is to make good this deficiency.

The pay of the regular service officers, in which the department is deficient, together with the cost of the establishment required for the fourth Superintending Engineer's office, amounts to a sum of Rs. 1,08,000 per annum, and this was the amount for new regular service establishment originally demanded. In view of the paucity of funds during the coming year, however, it was agreed on the representation of the Hon'ble the Finance Member that the demand should be cut down to one-half, with the result that the additional regular staff required to efficiently carry on the operations of the Buildings and Roads Branch of the department will not be brought up to full strength during 1921-22 but that recruitment will be spread over two years.

Now, of the sum of Rs. 54,000 which has been provided in the Budget, Rs. 30,000 only is subject to the vote of the Council, as the salaries of those officers of the superior engineering service who are appointed by the Secretary of State are not subject to vote.

It is this voted item of Rs. 30,000 which the mover desires should be reduced to Rs. 20,000, that is, by Rs. 10,000.

In view of the reduction in the original demand made by this department, which has already been agreed to, the only effect of the further reduction urged by the mover will be to hamper the department in its endeavours to give effect to the settled scheme of separation, which has been decided on solely with a view to greater efficiency in the important spending department of Public Works.

I trust, therefore, that the mover will see the wisdom of withdrawing this motion on my giving him an assurance that the intention of separation is greater efficiency and not mere extravagance.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following amendments were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand under the head '41.—Civil Works' be reduced by the omission from the Budget of the item 'Construction of Pabna-Bogra settlement buildings at Serajganj —Rs. 40,000."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand under the head '41.—Civil Works' be reduced by the reduction of the allotment for 'the construction of Survey office at Alipore' from Rs. 1,25,000 to Rs. 75,000."

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: "That a sum of Rs. 30,000 provided for settlement buildings at Suri be refused."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That a sum of Rs. 30,000 provided for settlement buildings at Suri be refused."

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: "That the sum of Rs. 30,000 provided for settlement buildings at Suri be refused."

Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: "That the demand for Rs. 30,000 for settlement buildings at Suri be refused."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 30,000 for settlement buildings at Suri be refused."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 40,000 for settlement buildings at Khulna be refused."

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 40,000 for settlement buildings at Khulna be refused."

Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: "That the demand for Rs. 40,000 for settlement buildings at Khulna be refused."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 40,000 for settlement buildings at Khulna be refused."

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 40,000 for settlement buildings at Khulna be refused."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the grant for the residence of the Collector of Pabna be refused."

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: "That the grant for the residence of the Collector of Pabna be refused."

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 30,000 for the reconstruction of subdivisional buildings at Alipore Dooars in the Jalpaiguri district be refused."

Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKAT: "That the demand for Rs. 30,000 for the reconstruction of subdivisional buildings at Alipore Dooars in the Jalpaiguri district be refused."

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 10,000 for the construction of a combined liquor warehouse and ganja gola at Diamond Harbour be refused."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 10,000 for the construction of a combined liquor warehouse and ganja gola at Diamond Harbour be refused."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand under head '41.—Civil Works' be reduced by the omission from the Budget of the provision for Rs. 19,000 for 'the construction of certain buildings for the Agricultural Farm at Suri.'"

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand under head '41.—Civil Works' be reduced by the omission from the Budget of the provision for Rs. 30,000 for 'the construction of buildings in connection with the establishment of Agricultural Farm at Goalchamot.'"

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand under head '41.—Civil Works' be reduced by the omission of the provision of Rs. 40,000 for seven sets of quarters for the assistants of the Dacca Farm.'"

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ formally moved "that the demand under the head '41—Civil Works' be reduced by the omission from the Budget of the provision of Rs. 6,00,000 for raising the site of the proposed rural magistracy at Itna, raising the site at Dhanbari, and supply of bricks for the Mymensingh partition scheme.

The PRESIDENT: The next three motions (Nos. 149 - 151) are the same as motion No. 148. Those who have given notice of them may speak if they like.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I support the motion formally moved by my friend Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq. The partition of Mymensingh was, so far as I remember, proposed in the year 1916-17 upon the recommendation of the District Administration Committee. As far as I have been able to see, this proposal was mainly based on political considerations. For political unrest it was then thought advisable that the district should be partitioned and arrangements made for proper control, but that state of things, I am glad to say, no longer exists. So, if now we are to launch upon any such scheme, if we are to spend a lot of money upon the partition of districts, we must first of all be satisfied of its necessity. If necessity has been established, then it must be done. It is for the Government to satisfy us whether there is such a necessity.

It may be said that this is also an irresponsible motion. I do not really understand to whom we are irresponsible; if it is to the bureaucracy, I for one plead guilty to the charge. It may be said that some years ago it was decided that the partition should be proceeded with, but as for want of funds it could not be done then, it may be done now.

I do not know whether the Hon'ble Finance Member has got any assurance of special financial help from the Government of India, so that if we are now very prosperous we might undertake this partition affair. The question of partition of the district of Mymensingh was raised in this Council once before, and we were told upon an estimate, put forward, I believe, by my friend Mr. Kerr, that about Rs. 45,00,000 would be required for capital expenditure, and the recurring expenditure would be about Rs. 3,00,000 or so. At that time the people had practically no voice in this Council; our protests were simply pious wishes. Now that the beginning of a responsible Government has been made, it ought to be shown to the people that the partition is necessary. So far as I remember, it has been said in the District Administration Committee's Report that some objections were made with a view to retain the district as it is and that these objections were made by some interested persons, viz., by some pleaders; but, Sir, I am not yet satisfied that the partition is really wanted by the people in general. How is it that funds are forthcoming to undertake this partition scheme against the wishes of the people at a time when vocational education cannot be arranged at Dacca, I understand, simply for want of funds? People are not at all keen about it. I have been told by a member of this Council who is an inhabitant of the Tangail subdivision, that people do not think it is at all necessary. There may be a few interested persons in favour of the proposal, but we must be satisfied that it is really intended for the benefit of the people. Unless that is established, we should consider, whether we should undertake such a costly scheme. It is simply for luxury, for increasing the number of district officers that this scheme has been brought forward. We should not therefore support it, or at any rate I think there is no hurry for it. If the thing could not be done for so many years for want of funds, I do not think that we should undertake a costly scheme like this this year, when, also we have not sufficient funds.

Then, Sir, I believe a committee is about to be constituted with a view to suggest retrenchments where necessary. There are many who are of opinion that instead of partitioning the bigger districts the smaller districts should be combined and the cost of administration thereby minimised: this I think a very important suggestion, and the said committee should consider whether it is possible to effect some retrenchment in this direction. Further, when the idea of district partition cropped up, there was no proposal of increasing the cost of ordinary administration by increase of pay of the various services, for which about a crore of rupees, I believe, would be added to the cost of administration by the end of next year. So we should consider whether under the circumstances it would be reasonable and proper to add that heavy expenditure to the cost of administration: even if it be Rs. 3,00,000, still it is very considerable, and my information goes—we were assured by Mr. Kerr last year—that the estimate would be about Rs. 45,00,000. But I think that that estimate

was an underestimate. This year the estimate will be about nearly Rs. 16,00,000 only for bricks and raising the sites, and then lots of money will have to be spent over the construction of buildings, schools, hospitals, etc. Apart from these facts, it is for consideration whether this expenditure from the public exchequer is at all necessary. If it is not necessary, then we should not do it. I believe I voice the sentiment of a large section of the people when I say that this should not be done.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I believe that this grant of Rs. 6,00,000 is wanted in connection with the partition of the Mymensingh district. Sir, this proposal for the partition of the district of Mymensingh, which was, I believe, carried in the teeth of opposition from many of the people of the district some years ago, has got to be viewed from a different standpoint now. Many things have happened since this proposal was accepted. It was a pre-Reform measure. Since then, the Reforms have been passed, and it has been repeated in this House often and often that the angle of vision has changed in many matters—and I think in the matter of the partition also, the angle of vision has got to be changed. The formation of Standing Committees has been mentioned several times in this House, and many things are to be referred to them, and I think it is advisable that this question of partition should be referred to one of the Standing Committees that are going to be formed. Then again, when the question of partition of districts was taken up, it was found that the District Magistrate had so many and multifarious duties that he could not very well manage them. Since then the duties of the District Magistrate have been lightened. The Chairman of the District Board is now a non-official gentleman, and the post of Additional Magistrate has not been abolished and is not going to be. In this view of the case, the question has got to be reconsidered. It is a very fortunate thing for this Council that we have been able to touch this matter at a very preliminary stage We notice that these Rs. 6,00,000 are wanted to raise lands in some villages in Itna and Dhanbari. Where are these villages that we should spend money there? Let the Standing Committee decide that this is absolutely necessary, and then and then only it will be time to ask the Council to vote on this question. Our financial difficulties are known to all and we cannot spend this money now.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: The placid water, upon which the bark of the Budget is being piloted by the Hon'ble Member, shows that there is not much desire on the part of the members of this Council to hamper the Ministers in the discharge of their duties. It is perfectly clear from the number of resolutions that have been withdrawn that there is no desire to embarrass the Government. In regard to the matter of the partition of Mymensingh the fact that notice has been given by no less three members of this Council shows that they attach more than ordinary importance to this item of expenditure.

The question of the dismemberment of the district of Mymensing has been discussed threadbare. As a member of the old Council I kno that it was very fully and exhaustively discussed and I need not trav over the same ground again. But I would confine myself to the situ tion in which we are now placed to-day, and that is, the peril of defic Well, it is a natural desire on the part of any member of this House find out and to suggest if it is possible to make any retrenchment, how ever small it may be, with a view to replenish our exchequer. Here is big sum of Rs. 6,00,000 required—for what purpose?—required to car out the partition of Mymensingh. The question naturally arises, is it su an important item for which this immediate grant of Rs. 6,00,000 necessary? Does the Hon'ble Member think that the administrati would come to a deadlock if the grant of Rs. 6,00,000 is not made imme ately? Mymensingh is a prosperous district. Its prosperity both wealth and education is well-known. It has got a water supply of i own and a first grade college. You cannot expect, if you dismember t district into three parts, that you will at once be able to install separa water-works in the three districts or a first grade college in each of the districts. What is the hurry then? It may be said—it is a question administrative efficiency—the administration cannot be carried on w such an unwieldy district. I do not want again to travel over the sa ground, as I have already said, but is that a sufficient argument for wh we should at once make a grant of Rs. 6,00,000 from our deplet exchequer? Take, for instance, the land revenue—the land revenue the 24-Parganas, I find, is Rs. 18,00,000, of Barisal Rs. 19,00,000, Mymensingh Rs. 9,00,000. Is the collection of land revenue—take o item of the administration—such a heavy work that you would require immediate creation of the three districts and that you cannot wait till y see whether your financial position improves? Then as regards mag terial work. While the 24-Parganas had 35,000 cases Mymensingh h only 12,000. I again ask, is this such a heavy work that the distr officers with their regiment of officers are unable to cope with it? Th I find that last year a grant of Rs. 2,40,000 was made, and out of th Rs. 1,40,000—was spent over this partition scheme—Rs. 1,00,000 f the raising of the Dhanbari site, and the remaining Rs. 40,000 for t raising of sites and for the provision of subdivisional headquarters Bajitpur, etc. This year I find only one mystic figure in the Budget Rs. 6,00,000. Are we not entitled to know how it is propos to be spent? Nothing is shown in the Budget Statement that h been circulated to us. I think, therefore, that the scheme is yet imm ture, and that there is no hurry in allocating such a huge sum in t Budget which may not perhaps be spent, and that it is possible carry on the administration with the present staff. It would appear fro the figures which I have collected that the work in Mymensingh is half th of the 24-Parganas which has not yet been dismembered and if the prese

staff at Mymensingh is not sufficient then it is open to the Government to appoint one or two officers more, and it would cost much less than this sum of Rs. 6, 00,000. I would therefore support the motion, and I hope the Hon'ble Member will see his way to accepting our request; and I hope that the question will not be decided on the basis of what is sometimes called *izzat* or simple *zid*.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: It may not be known to all the members of this Council that the works in connection with the partition of the Mymensingh district would cost Government Rs. 73,58,100. That is the figure which was given to me by Mr. Kerr the other day. And what is the financial condition of the Government. Mr. Kerr in his Budget Statement said—I shall quote his own words—"our financial position is unsatisfactory—most unsatisfactory—but in our everyday administration we are always running up against something unsatisfactory." This is no doubt the consolation which the Government wants to give us. I would ask: Is this the time to launch a scheme which would cost Rs. 73,58,100 or close upon Rs. 80,00,000? We know very well that the Public Works Budget is sure to increase by leaps and bounds within a very short time. We know also that the price of materials is now very high. Is this the time—even if you concede that the partition of Mymensingh is necessary—to launch a scheme like this? What are you going to do then? One district of Mymensingh is going to be divided into three districts, and I have been told by a gentleman who is a resident of Mymensingh that the distance of one of the districts from the other is only 4 hours' journey by rail, that from Jamalpur to Mymensingh it is only about 4 hours' journey. What is, then, the necessity of incurring this large expenditure when you know that you can go to the headquarters within 4 hours? Of course you know also that Mymensingh has now a network of railways. Formerly it was no doubt very inconvenient for the people of the mufassal to go to the headquarters, but now you have got a network of railways, you have got the Dacca-Mymensingh railway, and I think a survey is going to be made for a loop line also. Having this convenience and this advantage, I think it is time that the thing ought to be put a stop to at once. No doubt we are drawing upon our reserves and we shall have Rs. 52,00,000 from our net reserve of about four crores of rupees. Next year if the Government of India do not make any adequate provision for us, we shall be forced to impose fresh taxation. Is it proper for us to launch this heavy expenditure without first knowing what our position would be in the near future? Let us see what the Government of India does for us, what additional money is added to our income. Unless we know that, I think it is not proper that we should launch further schemes which would cost an immense sum of money; and is it fair to the public, to the poor, to the masses, that we should launch such schemes by which fresh taxation would be unavoidably necessary? With these words, I beg to support the motion.

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'bl Sir Henry Wheeler): This batch of resolutions and the batch tha comes after have reference to a subject of very great interest and import ance in provincial administration—a much discussed subject, but subject which is of vital importance to the efficiency of administratio in certain parts of this province—and it behoves the Council, therefor to examine the question strictly on the merits and equally free from con siderations of *izzat* and *zid* to which Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur ha made reference, and which I, on my part, most emphatically disclaim

This whole question of overgrown districts has fortunately bee examined at length in fairly recent times by a very responsible body composed of experienced administrators, not only of this province bu of other provinces, and if I base my remarks largely on the report of tha body it is because that constitutes a convenient compendium of th arguments on either side. If any member of the Council wishes to ge a succinct idea of the merits of the question I would commend to hi perusal Chapter III of the Report of the District Administration Com mittee entitled "The excessive size of certain districts and subdivisions"

Although these two batches of resolutions deal specifically only wit Mymensingh and Midnapore, it is unfortunately the case that th characteristic of overgrowth distinguishes other districts in Benga also. That is the answer to Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur's argu ment that because Mymensingh is not much bigger than the 24-Par ganas, why should it be necessary to partition it? The truth is that th districts of the 24-Parganas, Dacca, Bakarganj, Faridpur, are all, unde modern conditions, of inconvenient size, and regarding them the sam committee also made proposals. But it is, of course, obviously impos sible to undertake changes in six districts at once, and, therefore, ou present proposals are concerned with two only. But on the merit changes in those other districts are equally justified.

Now, Sir, what is the general position about the partition of dis tricts? We have found after many years' experience that, in moder conditions, some of the district officers' charges in Bengal cannot b efficiently and properly run as single units. Whatever may have bee the case in the past, modern conditions of administration have altered the position, and we have a long and consistent testimony from those who have been in charge of the districts, as well as from a series of experienced administrators who have looked into the matter, that, unless something can be done to relieve the territorial burden on our officers, the work of these districts cannot be properly supervised. I will read a quotation from the District Administration report which puts the facts in a nutshell. They say:

There are certain things such as the supervision of the courts, the disposal of case-work, of current references and correspondence, the control of existing institutions, that, though by no means necessarily constituting the most important part of a Collector's work, yet make the most insistent demand on his time. Thi

lass of duties has assumed such proportions that they leave the Collector hardly ny leisure for other tasks, with the result that the latter, which are often of keeper necessity and more essential to the true weltare and advancement of the people, are left undone. We allude to such matters as the supervision of education; personal intercourse with the people; the collection and assimilation of detailed economic, social and political knowledge, and the elaboration of schemes which require such knowledge. The neglect of these is not so readily apparent or so easily discerned by an official inspection, but sooner or later some deep-seated evil is bound to make its appearance in the administrative organisation from his weakening of its vital impulse. We have dwelt more particularly on the necessity for the relief of the Collector, the officer with whose functions our report is principally concerned; but the pressure of the work is almost as great in the case of other officers. The District Judge is seldom able to visit his outlying courts, and he has to rely on the Additional Judge to deal with many of the appeals that come from them, the Civil Surgeon rarely inspects a tithe of his outlying dispensaries, and the Superintendent of Police has to delegate an undesirably large portion of his authority to an Additional Superintendent, an expedient to which the objections taken in the case of Additional District Magistrates apply with equal force.

That, Sir, concisely sums up the issues. The work cannot be done, while important portions of it have a vital bearing on the interests of the people. To take one example,—the growth of village government. We hear much about that nowadays, and it is a subject in which we are all interested. But if village government is to be fostered and encouraged it must be possible for superior officers to give sympathetic help to these bodies, and if there is a very large number of them it is absolutely impossible for the Collector to be in any sort of personal touch with their members. In the absence of this stimulus enthusiasm will fade and the experiment will fail.

But this same committee were not merely content to emphasise the difficulties; they also examined in detail various suggestions, such as the appointment of Additional Magistrates, etc., which were advanced in different quarters by way of solution, and they finally arrived at a very clear and specific finding, namely:

We have, therefore, come to the deliberate conclusion that there is no objection of real importance to the partition of unwieldy districts and subdivisions, and that this is the only real solution of the difficulty. The district and the subdivisional boundaries are not sacrosanct, and the sooner this is realised the better. These boundaries have been repeatedly altered in the past. In all branches of the administration work is daily becoming more heavy and more complex with the increase in population and education; and there is no reason why Government should hesitate to do now what it has so often done before—to modify the administrative charges of its officers in such a way that the work will be efficiently performed and the real wants of the people will be met.

That is a very definite finding, and in the same paragraph it is supported by a remark which has a very distinct bearing on the argument which we have heard to-day, that these changes are not wanted by the people. They wrote:—

There are some others who deny the necessity of reducing these heavy charges, as they have no means of gauging the volume or appreciating the difficulties of the

district officer's work. But the mass of the population entertain no objection whatever to the proposals for the partition of districts and subdivisions. In fact they welcome changes which are so obviously undertaken for their own protection and for their own convenience.

The committee admitted that opposition was shown in some quarters Obviously that was likely. None of us like change, especially when it means parting with old associations and upsetting long-standing arrangements. But the committee said clearly that the opposition came mainly from headquarters, where the course of life would necessarily be somewhat disturbed by a modification of boundaries of this kind, however little the people at large shared in that feeling. In this particular case of Mymensingh it is particularly noticeable that the committee remarked:—

The Muhammadans, though somewhat nervous as to the effect of the partition on their numerical position, were decidedly in favour of the measure; and there were also whole-hearted supporters of the proposal among the Hindu zamindars

In fact a considerable rivalry sprung up between outlying centres as to which should be the headquarters of the new districts and subdivisions.

So much for the general case, and before I leave this part of the subject I would like to emphasise that the question rests on the administrative merits to which I am making reference, and not, as Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri would make us believe, on what is known as the "unrest" which prevailed in Bengal some years ago. The issues are the wider administrative ones which I have been outlining.

Now, turning to this particular case of Mymensingh, let us see what the area is with which we are dealing. The committee's description of the district is not without interest:—

It contains five subdivisions, of which the areas vary from 1,822 square miles to 985 square miles, and the population from 1,185,330 to 655,295 persons. The population of any one of these exceeds the average population of a district in most provinces of India. Large areas in the south-east of the district are covered with swamps, which the rains convert into wide stretches of water. They are intersected by numerous channels, communications are decidedly deficient, roads are few and bad, and only one of the subdivisional headquarters is connected with Mymensingh by railway.

The district is doubtless known to many of us, and I think that this will be accepted as a fair description of this area. That being so, and combining these facts with the general arguments upon which I have touched, I put it to the Council that there is a strong *primâ facie* case for relief in this particular instance. Neither can it be said that in applying that relief Government have been unduly precipitate, and this point has a bearing upon the argument which we have heard from Babu Surendra Nath Ray, to the effect that "When so much expenditure is involved, why not postpone it—why spend so much money on it now? My answer to that is that the members who talked in that strain, though urging

ostponement, are really in their hearts desiring abandonment, because, we take a case that has been going on, as this one has, since 1876, cannot be said that in finally carrying it into effect now and in the w succeeding years, we have not already given fully weight—almost xcessive weight—to the expediency of delay. Neither can it be said hat this project has been embarked upon without the fullest consulation of all interested, and the most complete endeavour to meet all easonable wishes. Let me just outline some of the more important tages. As I have already said, this proposal was initiated in 1876, when t was postponed for financial reasons. It was again examined in 1884, hen the solution of a new subdivision was tried. In 1904 it came up in ir Andrew Fraser's time and was shelved by the partition of Bengal. he Eastern Bengal and Assam Government took it up in 1908, and ade detailed inquiries which rather came to grief over the problem of here the headquarters of the new district were to be. Lord Carmichael ook it up again in 1912, published a resolution detailing very argument that was relevant, while he himself went to he spot, held conferences, and discussed the problem with all the ading men. In 1913 the District Administration Committee examined .. while in 1915 the whole result of previous inquiries was again summaised in a resolution, opinions were collected, and detailed changes were ade by way of meeting local sentiment to a certain extent. So we have ad a protracted inquiry of some 44 years preceding this action which we ave now begun and which we wish to complete in the approaching and ubsequent years. Moreover, in this Council the question has been more han once debated in connection with recent budgets, and various resoluions connected with it have at one time or another been either lost or ithdrawn. Therefore, our proposals are no haphazard happy thoughts, ut are based upon exhaustive inquiries and a general consensus of adminstrative opinion that it is expedient that this change should be effected. nd in no respect is it more important than in that of the District Board. on-official chairmen have lately been appointed to District Boards, but say without hesitation that a non-official chairman, who will normally nd it difficult to spend much time in the mufassal, will find it absolutely npossible to supervise his subordinates in a district of the area of Mymenngh. Mr. Hopkyns, who was for three years Collector of this district nd is one of our most capable officers, has just told me that during his enure he was not able to visit all his thanas. Now three years is rather onger than the ordinary time which a District Magistrate remains in one istrict, and if even in that time an energetic officer is not able to visit all is outlying thanas, it is unfair to accuse the District Magistrate of not xercising efficient supervision.

There is one final argument and that is the financial one. I freely dmit that these partitions of districts are most unfortunately an expenive remedy, which nobody can regret more than we do. If we could have aken them in hand many years before, they could have been done far

more cheaply than is the case now. That general point is unfortunate true, and it is equally true that the bill for this particular partition is very large one—a matter of some Rs. 73,00,000. But we have alrea commenced work, and it is only right that the Council should clea recognise what money we have already spent and to what extent we a committed to the scheme. We have spent about Rs. 7,50,000 on acqui ing land, and with minor incidental expenses the total comes Rs. 7,64,000, while we are at the present moment practically committe to works in progress in connection with the preparation of the site whi account for another Rs. 85,000. That is to say, we have already prac cally spent nearly Rs. 8,50,000 on this scheme. The Council may perha say, "Well, Rs. 8,50,000 is something, but Rs. 73,00,000 is more." Th also is true. But let it be remembered that if we adopt this plea of pos ponement, the cost will not go down, it will go up; and if this change ever to be effected, then sooner or later we shall have to face the expens Mere postponement will not afford a solution. The question is wheth we are going to give the administration of these overgrown districts a fa chance at this considerable and regrettable cost, or are we to continue say, as we have for so many years said, "We will just carry on as best we can." Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur has urged that if we postpo this partition it will not bring the administration to a standstill. Th is true, as obviously the administration has been going on in a way f many years. But it will mean that the administration will go on und thoroughly unsatisfactory conditions, and it will be unfair to compla if District Magistrates are unable to exercise the supervision for whi we ordinarily look to them.

For these reasons I put it to the Council that the project is very imp tant and fully justifiable, even though costly.

The motion then being put, a division was taken, with the followi result:—

AYES.

Afzal, Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M.
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kisheri Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das, Mr. S. R.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
Do, Babu Fanindralal.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Faroqui, Mr. K. G. M.
Chatak, Rai Sahib Nilmani.
Chose, Mr. D. C.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandr
Morgan, Mr. G.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.

Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Ray, Babu Bhabendra Chandra.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kisher.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilell Singh.
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Sinha, Babu Surandra Narayan.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.

NOES.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr. C. H.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cochran, Mr. A.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
Donald, Mr. J.
Gordon, Mr. A. D.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Lang, Mr. J.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Marr, Mr. A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Rhodes, Mr. C. W.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P'
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 61 and the Noes 31, the motion was carried.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: This motion depends upon the consideration of motion No. 153. If I am permitted to speak, as I was allowed to do with reference to amendment No. 15, on both these motions, I think that will be convenient. I think the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler will consider the question.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I would point out that motion Nos. 152 to 157 are all identical as regards the main issue.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: If motions Nos. 153 to 157 are carried, then I think this will also go along with them.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: The position is the same, as in connection with an earlier resolution of the same member about establishments in the Hijli district. If the partition of Midnapore, is abandoned the provision for a water-supply scheme at Hijli would naturally go out along with it.

Amendment No. 152 was then withdrawn.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY, in the absence of Babu Sarat Chandra Janah, moved "that the demand of Rs. 7,25,000 for the partition of Midnapore be refused."

The principal ground generally advanced in support of the proposal to divide the present district is, that the district with its large area of 5,150 square miles and a population of 2,821,201 entails an amount of heavy administrative work. Midnapore is a purely agricultural district without

any mills or factories. There are no factories or mills within the are
For the last century and a half of the British connection, during the earl
part of which a considerable amount of spade work had to be undertake
and carried out, one single district officer was found to be quite sufficie
to cope with the work of administration. In those days there were no wel
laid-out *kutcha* and *pucca* roads or canals and other convenient means
communication from one part of the district to the other. Within t
last twenty years, however, the aspect of the entire district has be
changed almost out of recognition by the introduction of railways.
you look at the map of Midnapore you will notice that the configurati
of the district is almost like a circle and the town of Midnapore is at
centre. From this centre radiate railway lines north, east, south a
west, dividing the district into four segments, thereby opening out t
entire district and making the most distant and obscure parts easi
accessible from the district headquarters. Besides this, the whole area
the district is covered by a network of well aligned and long stretches
pucca and *kutcha* District Board roads with a total mileage of 1,498 mile
including Local Board and Union Board roads. Add to this there is t
further facility of communications afforded by three regular motor se
vices connecting the three outlying subdivisions with the nearest railw
stations. The district officer, twenty years ago, had not a single one
these advantages. The appointment of an Additional District Magistra
with all the powers of a district officer has, to begin with, the practic
effect of relieving the district officer of about 40 per cent. of his dutie
and this arrangement has been working very satisfactorily for a conside
able length of time. Under the existing system his connection with t
important departments of Registration, Excise and Police has becom
almost nominal. He is no longer the District Registrar of Midnapo
The appointment of a non-official Chairman of the District Board h
relieved the district officer of a portion of his duties. All this has t
necessary effect of further reduction of his duties.

The effect of the partition of the district as proposed by the Beng
Government resolution is this. That Midnapore sadar would consist
thanas Midnapore, Salbani, Garbhet, Keshpur and Debra. This has a
area of 1,079 square miles and a population of 414,258. The new su
division at Jhargram would consist of thanas Jhargram, Binpur and Gop
ballavpur, with an area of 1,237 square miles and 372,793 population, a
the Ghatal subdivision would consist of thanas Ghatal, Daspur and Cha
drapurkona, with an area of 372 square miles and a population
301,396. This new district of Hijli would have its headquarters
Kharagpur, with the following subdivisions:—Hijli, Contai a
Tamluk. This distribution was arrived at after several intermedia
stages, beginning from 1906. In point of area and population, the
fore, the two districts would be considerably reduced, and the hea
quarters of the new district would be only 6 miles off from the old on
This is about quarter of an hour's journey by railway. The town

dnapore is an old one. The Municipality manages a second grade lege and has got a charitable dispensary. The Municipality also taken up the water-works scheme and it is in id progress. The revenues of the Municipality and the District ard will be greatly reduced, and it is doubtful whether the cost upkeep of the existing establishment could be met from them. The ual recurring expenses for the upkeep of the new district would come to something like Rs. 2,00,000 and the initial expense about 18,00,000. If administrative efficiency in the truest sense of the term he strongest reason from the Government point of view, it seems it is weakest one from the people's point of view. What really is efficient ninistration? Is it not making the people healthier, wealthier, more ate and more prosperous, making them fitter and better citizens? I nk it would redound to the interests of the people of the place, if tead of spending about Rs. 18,00,000 and creating another district, same amount were spent in works of public utility, in sanitation and other schemes.

With these few remarks, I beg to move the motion "that the demand Rs. 7,25,000 for the partition of Midnapore be refused."

The PRESIDENT: This motion and the motions that follow os. 154 to 157) are identical. Therefore I would call on the intend- movers of those motions to speak on this.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I said in connection th the question of the partition of Mymensingh that it was on poli- al considerations that the question was raised. We have been refer- l to the Report of the District Administration Committee, Chap- III. I have carefully gone through it, and my impression still is t I am not mistaken in that view. The proposals were put forward Sir Richard Temple in 1876. The proposals for the reduction of the ger areas were abandoned on financial considerations finally in 1885. ain the question was raised, but when it was made known to the blic a number of petitions was received.

In this way the matter could not be seriously taken up. When last case was taken up in 1913, after the decision of the appeal in the ll-known Midnapore law suit, a fresh resolution was issued inviting jections, of which a plentiful crop was forthcoming. This shows, that when there was unrest in the district, it was really thought ressary. At last the District Administration Committee said—I er to the last portion—that the masses of the population entertain objection. At first it was said that there were objections, but these jections are from interested persons (from the zamindars' point of w)—from pleaders and other persons—and the masses of the popu- ion entertain no objection whatever to proposals for the partition of ese districts and subdivisions and, in fact, they welcome changes ich are so obviously undertaken for their own protection and for

their own convenience. So, it comes to this that, on account of th wishes of the people, the idea was originated and seriously taken up Now if we are satisfied that it was seriously so, then a necessity arises otherwise, I think we are right in saying that there is no necessity. A far as possible, we have ascertained the wishes of the representative of the people. Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur is there, who the representative of the zamindar class, and I am sorry my frien Babu Sarat Chandra Janah is not present on account of some bereave ment. He was prepared to move a resolution as a representative o the people to say that it is not at all necessary. Babu Satish Chandr Mukharji, I believe, is here as a representative of the people, and he of opinion that it is not wanted by the people. If it is so, Sir, the the real ground is gone, and I can safely say that Government has n case at all. As I said, if it is really necessary for the benefit of th people, it can be done. Unless that necessity is established, we shoul not undertake a costly arrangement like this. It is not a very high question Lots of money will be required and there is n knowing how we can meet it. If, on the other hand there is no necessity, I think this Council cannot accept the proposa Here we are as the people's representatives, and we owe a duty t them. As their representatives we say that there is no necessity an people do not want it, and in that view, if the report of the Distric Administration Committee is wrong, I think there is a strong case fo interference. Simply because it was taken up in recent years an money could not be found for it on account of the shortness of fund —that is no ground why this year it should be taken up. We see n hurry. If the question could be in abeyance for several years, wh should it not remain in abeyance for another year? In the meantime let the wishes of the people be ascertained. It is not necessary t speak much, and I believe the representatives are anxious to say some thing about it; so, I do not wish to take up much time of the House With these few words, I commend the amendment for the acceptance of the House.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I consider tha the reduction of the demand by this amount is necessary. Looking a the proposal for the partition of the district we find that there is no only the initial cost, but also the recurring cost. Is there any necessity of incurring this cost? It has been suggested that, as there have been changes in the condition of the country, there ought to be alteration in the old plan, and, if we consider the question in the light of the logic of facts, it will appear that the District Magistrates have been given relief from the work of the municipalities, district boards and some other work; they do not now exercise some of the powers they used to do formerly. I can assert, and with confidence, that the District Magistrates nowadays have less work to do, so this Council ought not to approve of a proposal for the division of the district in order to

ve further relief to the District Magistrate. There is little justifica-
on for saying that the work of a District Magistrate is now heavy,
d for administrative convenience there should be a division of work,
, instead of one district there should be two. But please remember
fact that with the partition of the district various items of expendi-
re of a heavy nature are involved; we will have to establish colleges
d other institutions in two different districts and consequently the
pense will be heavy. Is it not, therefore, necessary to consider at
moment whether there is any necessity for the division of the dis-
ct? I find that nowadays it is the policy of Government to divide
tricts, and many districts have been divided, with the result that we
faced with a financial crisis. We have now got a network of roads,
lways and motor services, and I think there is little necessity for
rtitioning the district at present. I ask the Council to consider
ether it is necessary to spend several lakhs of rupees in building
urt-houses and the like in a place which is not very far off from the
sent headquarters. On financial grounds also I am opposed to the
eme of partition, and I think it should be postponed. Of course,
view of the difficulties involved in the administration of a big dis-
ct, it may be necessary to divide it, but the people at large are
posed to the policy which the Government had hitherto adopted.
w, Sir, what is meant by "administrative convenience?" If it
ans that the officer in charge of a district should be given relief, I
bmit that that relief has already been given, and it would be con-
lered as an act of injustice by the tax-payers of Bengal if this
7,25,000 be sanctioned for the partition of the district of Midnapore.

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: I learn from the Bengal
ministration Report, 1914-15, that the proposal "for the partition
Midnapore for better administration of the district" was, for a
g time, under the consideration of the Government of Bengal. In
13, the Bengal Government drew up a scheme and submitted it for
blic criticism. At last, a revised scheme was drawn up in accord-
ce with the recommendations of the District Administration Com-
ttee. According to the new scheme, the district of Midnapore was
oposed to be divided into two portions, Midnapore proper with its
adquarters at Midnapore, and Hijli with its headquarters very near
aragpur. The two districts would be of nearly equal size, the popu-
tion. of Midnapore will be a little more than ten lakhs and that of
jli a little more than seventeen lakhs.

According to the scheme, the district is to be divided by a straight
e drawn west of Midnapore. I narrate all these only to draw atten-
on to the fact that in this scheme, no regard has been paid to the social,
onomical and political condition of the people. It is simply a straight
e, which will divide one portion of the people from another, tied

down together by bonds of relationship, ties of affection, from time immemorial. Midnapore, Sir, is a district, the mention of which can be found in our oldest *sastras*. The solidarity of the district has remained intact, through various changes and calamities. Dynasties after dynasties have risen and fallen on the Imperial throne of Delhi, but Midnapore retained its unity, its solidarity; people were never separated The partition will make a new move in their social affairs.

The villagers in this country, still love their villages, their castes and creeds. Their sweet sleep will be disturbed when they will hear that some of their relatives have been separated and have been placed under a separate administration. The idea of toleration, though present among the educated community, can scarcely be found among the illiterate mass. The separation will increase their ignorance, and will cause them to be enveloped with isolation. We know, Sir, our pronunciation varies from district to district, the language of one district differs from the language of its neighbouring district. The customs also differ from one district to another. Under these circumstances, the creation of a new district, I fear, would lead to deterioration and total isolation. We want now that people should get practical political training, but, instead of that, they will be thrown back into isolation and darkness.

The proposal comes from the Government for the better administration of the district. Now, I think, the days of paternal Government have ended, the roseate dawn of popular Government is peeping through the horizon. We have been granted almost universal suffrage. We have our representatives in the Council and even our own men in the Government. I think, therefore, before proceeding into the matter, the question must be put to the people. Their opinions must be invited, and they should be asked to participate with us in the question. But, if they as a body repudiate the Government's proposal and refuse to be favoured with the boon promised, is it not fair, Sir, that we should ponder over the matter, and should hesitate a little?

It is alleged that Midnapore requires a "better administration." But the people are not dissatisfied under the present system. The present system is certainly not a bad one. It is not warranted, so at least appears from the Police reports or the reports of other departments The present administration of the district, on the other hand, has worked successfully well to the prosperity and happiness of the people for the last one hundred and fifty years, since Midnapore came under British rule. Midnapore has got a brilliant roll of district officers. It includes the names of Sir Henry Harrison, Sir Henry Cotton, Sir Charles Stevenson Moore, C. J. Faulder, R. C. Dutt, H. Lee, W. R. Bright, C. H. Bompas, Sir John Cumming, the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler and the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Kerr, all worthy members of the Indian Civil Service. In those days, the duties of the District Magistrate were very complex. Besides the general administration, they had

to manage 12 ward estates with the assistance of a common manager only, they had to guide and shape the policy of a district board with an annual income of Rs. 11 lakhs, and they had also to attend to the disturbances and the riots of the Indigo plantation under Messrs. Watson & Co. In addition to all these duties, the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr, when he was the District Officer of this district, in 1904-05, was also in charge of the settlement operations. Now, Sir, I want to draw attention to another point, equally weighty, which needs our serious consideration. The Midnapore of to-day is not the Midnapore of the 19th century. Even in the first decade of the present century, there were few facilities for communication; officers had to go either by steamers or by country boats. They had to travel in the interior either in a bamboo cart or in a tumtum. It took 14 hours to reach Midnapore. In the course of these years, communication has marvellously been quickened; railways and motor services can always be had which facilitate a quick and easy journey.

Now, Sir, Midnapore prospered well, the District Officers managed the district efficiently with the help of one Joint Magistrate and a few Deputies only. They never thought of partition, though they had numerous responsible duties to perform, though they had to undergo serious hardships and many inconveniences during the time of travelling, in performing their superintending duties.

At present, the District Officer of Midnapore has been relieved of the duties of the Chairman of the District Board The district has now been provided with a quicker mode of transport. Under these improved conditions, what has happened that we have grown impatient for the partition. Sir, I admit that partition has become a fashion of the day, since 1906 we have seen many partitions and several redistribution of territories, both with good and disastrous results. If the Government is anxious to follow the fashion then there can be no argument against it; or else, we must consider the question carefully, must consult public opinion before we come to a conclusion. I want to press the fact a little for the reconsideration of the Government, even though it be a settled fact, as we know, that the settled fact of the partition of Bengal was favourably disposed of, when the cause was vehemently urged by the public.

When the partition of the district was proposed in 1913, there was no idea of transferring the duties of the District Board to a non-official Chairman. Since then, the circumstances have changed a good deal. Still, if we be told that the duties of the Magistrate have enormously increased, I suggest that the desired end can be attained, if some of the superfluous duties of the Magistrate be entrusted to the hands of two Assistant Magistrates, instead of one. The Administration Report says that one District Judge will continue to deal with cases from both the districts. Is it proper, Sir, to divide the district,

because it is alleged that the duties of the Magistrate alone have increased, and is it not advisable to reach the desired goal, as I have suggested, by creating the post of one more Assistant Magistrate, instead of dividing the district into two.

One thing may be put that we have far advanced into the matter; we have begun the building operations already. Yes, I think it will not be very difficult for us to dispose of them or even to make a good bargain out of them in the face of brisk speculation in land and in buildings.

If we see the other side of this question, we find that the people of Midnapore do not want the partition is plain. I have been requested to move this motion by many of them. The zamindars also do not like the scheme. The partition of Midnapore will lead to two complete establishments for them, which they will have to keep at two headquarter towns, the cost of which will increase the recurring expenditure. The cost of litigation will increase and, consequently, the income of the zamindars will go down. If the partition be carried out, I think, Sir, several of the Midnapore zamindars who are now solvent, will be financially ruined after the partition, with the increase of expenditure. I have been receiving numerous representations from my constituency also to move this motion; I am, therefore, in moving this motion, voicing the opinion prevalent outside the Council.

It is also not a question of a particular district, that the Council should remain callous. I call it a national one. We are threatened with a huge deficit, we do not know how to make it up. We have been assured of the good intentions of the Government of India to reconsider our financial question. But in the meantime, so long as we do not get any real help, I think it will be injudicious on our part to increase the recurring expenditure and thereby making the road more broad to a financial crisis. The proposal of this partition, we are told, was for a long time under the consideration of the Government. It was formally submitted for public criticism in 1914-15 and then remained for some time unrealised. The need for the partition, however urgent it is said to be, I suppose, is not so urgent that it requires its execution at once.

The people of Midnapore, both raiyats and zamindars, do not like to be divided into two political entities. They do not like to be divided into two social and political groups. The people of Bengal do not like to overburden their exhausted treasury with a heavy recurring expenditure. Under these circumstances, we should wait—if it is not possible to give up the scheme altogether—we should wait until the public is thoroughly consulted. So, I beg to support the resolution which has been moved by my friend, Babu Surendra Nath Ray.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I beg to support the amendment which is proposed by Babu Surendra Nath Ray. I read this morning in the newspapers that the Governor of Madras said that the Madras Councillors were in deepest gloom and they are full of pessimism because of their imminent bankruptcy. Sir, we in Bengal have displayed no such pessimism. We have taken our courage in both our hands. We have accepted the fact that we have a huge deficit and we are determined to act in spite of it. In that view, Sir, we are determined that we shall strike out at least one crore of rupees and put Bengal on its feet. In that view, Sir, we have struck out Rs. 23,50,000 from the police grant. There is no difficulty whatsoever in going back on the actuals of 1920-21. The Indian Moderate newspapers and certain Anglo-Indian newspapers have all condemned the partition of the district. We have been given responsibility for the progress of this country. We are working for the good of the people. It is true that certain people, a very small coterie, have succeeded in dismissing Mr. P. L. Roy, but every impartial person must have observed that a number of motions against the proper working of the administration have been rejected. We desire to co-operate with the Government and not to impede its actions, but we desire, we are here, to carry on great and beneficial reforms for the good of our people. Otherwise our presence here is unnecessary. Therefore, Sir, I have thought it right that the partition of Mymensingh, the partition of Midnapore and the Grand Trunk Canal project should be opposed. We have done nothing to let anybody suppose that we do not wish to help Government. Though they disagree with us, they should not misinterpret our action. In the very first motion before this Council, I was loudly abused by a certain Englishman because I carried a motion for medical relief against the votes of the Government party, but I am glad to say that the same Englishman has become one of my best friends since then. I do not know what the Government will do, but the Government ought to be aware that any hope of relief from Delhi is illusory, having regard to the fact that there are the Russo-Afghan treaty and the mutterings of thunder from the North-West. Every right-thinking Indian should feel it his duty to stand by the Government and to support it in its effort to meet the menace, if any. Sir, please don't make the people of Bengal bankrupt. You may be quite sure that no Council will be able to pass any measure of new taxation and you may be quite sure that any measure of taxation will make Bengal absolutely disaffected. It was Bengal, by the help of which the English conquered the whole of India, and I would give you the assurance that if Bengal is properly governed, Afghans, Russians and Punjab Muhammadans will again be beaten with the help of the Bengalis. Please don't make Bengal bankrupt or disaffected. I say therefore that this unnecessary expenditure at least for the present should not be indulged in.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: We are not convinced that any case has been made out for the partition. The partition of a district and things of that kind should not be undertaken by Government unless there is real need for it. It is not from any point of administrative *zud* that things like these should be carried on. So far as district administration is concerned, anybody who has got any knowledge or experience of the matter will bear me out that nowadays District Magistrates of the most important districts have been considerably relieved of their work by having new Additional District Magistrates put in for important districts, who do all the criminal, appellate and revisional work. That is a very heavy amount of work indeed. Before the Magistrates had to work at Court, hear cases and then write out judgments at home, which took a considerable portion of their time, and there was then the District Board also. Now, in almost every important district, the District Magistrate is no longer the Chairman, and, as such, he has been relieved totally of performing the duties of the District Board, as well as of looking after the details of the management of the Board. Then, there are several departments in which important work has been taken away from them, such as Excise, Registration, etc. Ten years ago, I know of District Magistrates sitting here, who had to do an amount of work, which cannot be compared with what his successors of the present day are called upon to do. In spite of this, if any proposal is put before us of subdividing a district, I am sure a very strong case must be made out by the Government. The question is whether in the case of Midnapore, any such case has been made out. Up till now, all that we have heard in connection with this matter is not at all convincing. Over and above this, there is the fact that Midnapore is not an outlying district; it is only 1½ hours from Calcutta. No administrative difficulties or anything of that description are likely to arise, for which it is necessary that the district should now be partitioned. Talking from a general point of view, no case has been made out at all for the partition of this district.

Coming to the particular point, I must say that I condemn these brick and mortar activities of new work in a year when we are about Rs. 2½ crores in deficit. Ordinary common sense dictates that we must cut our coat according to our cloth. This deficit is going to be chronic, whether anybody admits it or not, it does not matter. Unless and until we can find out other sources of revenue to supplement our present resources, there is no question that this deficit is going to be chronic, and the only alternative is that next year we shall have to find more money in taxes. Because this is the first year of a new era; that is the reason why taxes have not been proposed, but anybody, who has got sense enough to understand things, knows very well that next year we will have to introduce taxes, if we want to avoid a chronic deficit. There is no question about that. Is it not, therefore, high time that we should consider how to avoid this deficit as best as we

can, or how to reduce that deficit? It is not works of ordinary administrative efficiency that I am going to stand against, it is not money voted for medical works or for agricultural improvement or things of that kind; but money buried in brick and mortar is certainly something we can very well consistently oppose. So long as our financial position is not hopeful, we shall not lose, in any way if we wait. If it is advisable to consider things and not hurry them on on our side, it is much more so on the part of the Government not to push on with their ideas with all the *zal* that they possibly can. I do not think this is at all necessary; they must help us, and try to see whether we could be in a better position financially, and give up unnecessary expenditure. There are one or two items on the agenda on which I might have to say the same thing. Then, again, if you divide the district into two, what is the result? You will have to spend about Rs. 20,00,000 or Rs. 25,00,000 on capital works, on recurring charges, we must spend over Rs. 2,50,000. Well, what is the good of wasting all this money in a work of this nature, when you can bless everybody by at least devoting half of that on technical or industrial institutions or even on education or something of that sort? You will get everybody's blessing, you will be doing something good and useful, for which even in the present distressed condition of our finances, there will be some justification. Do not press your point too hard; no Government, however mighty, has the right to do so without any absolute justification Unless your schemes are moderate and reasonable, no Government, however mighty, ought to push things to the bitter extreme

With these observations, I would ask the House to reject this large and unnecessary grant that has been asked for, for the partition of the district of Midnapore, and for which no case has been made out.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: I rise to oppose this motion and, in doing so I beg to point out that the members, who have spoken in support of this resolution, have said again and again that it is the wish of the people that this partition of Midnapore should not be effected. I do not know whether the members of the House, who have supported this resolution, have ever been to the interior of the district. I do not know whether the members have visited, say, the Nandigram thana in the Tamluk subdivision. It is very easy to say and state before the Council what the wishes of the people are that the partition should not be effected. I was a candidate for election for the Burdwan South Muhammadan area, which comprises the districts of Howrah, Hooghly and Midnapore. I tried my best to inform my voters that I would stand as a candidate, and, when I tried to find out means of communication, I found it was impossible to inform my voters that an election would take place and that they had the right to vote. It is such a huge district, absolutely without means of conveyance, and, if any member takes the trouble to go

into the interior of the district, he will find that it will take three or four days to go from one thana to another. That is how the district stands.

It has been said by my learned friend Babu Surendra Nath Ray, that there is a network of roads, *kutcha* and *pucca*. I do not know how he has got this information. If he would take the trouble of going and seeing what these roads are like, and how difficult the people are finding it to go from one part of the district to another, he would change his opinion at once, and he would say the sooner this partition is carried out, the better. If a man wants to file an appeal from the judgment of the Munsif of Ghatal before the District Judge of Midnapore, he will have to leave Ghatal at 4 o'clock in the morning, take the Ghatal steamer going to Kolaghat, which means a journey of about six hours, and if the tides are against him, sometimes he is stranded on the shores of the Rupnarain river. If he succeeds in getting the train to Kharagpur, he will have to take another train to go to Midnapore, so that it would mean—I put it as a matter of personal experience—that it would be impossible to do any judicial work in connection with the matter of his appeal, if these two districts still remain one, and are not divided and sufficient facilities for conveyance and building roads and other public works are not given effect to at once.

I thought that the gentleman who has been returned from the Burdwan Division, South, Mr. Zahid Suhrawardy, would have said something on this matter because he is a representative of the rural Muhammadans of Midnapore. Babu Sarat Chandra Janah and Raja Maniloll Singh——

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: I come from Burdwan. I do not come from Midnapore.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: They represent only a certain section of the people of Midnapore. Babu Sarat Chandra Janah represents only one portion of the district. Whereas in Midnapore, if a Muhammadan wanted to be returned, he has got to secure votes from the entire district, and it is the Muhammadan candidate who can really tell the House what the difficulties are, even of informing the voters of their right to vote and the date thereof.

Babu Sarat Chandra Janah, of course, found it very easy, because he represented only the southern portion of the district. But one, who has got to look to the entire district for votes, has to face many difficulties.

Coming to police administration, what do we find? There is one thana, I believe, for the eastern extremity of the district, that is, for the side of the Rupnarain river. Any gentleman who has got any idea of the place will find that villages beginning from the western bank of the Rupnarain river up to the middle portion of the Ghatal subdivision, are under one thana, and it is at Daspur. What is the result? If any occurrence takes place, say, in one of these villages near the Rupnarain river, and if the police are to be informed, it will take about 8 hours to inform them. If a man is killed by snake-bite or poison, before the police

can be informed, the dead body gets decomposed. These are the practical difficulties. One of the movers said that he has got many friends and relations in Midnapore. On the other hand, though I have been elected to represent the district, I belong to the Howrah district; I live on the borders of the Rupnarain river; my friends and relations mostly come from Midnapore district, and I have been to them, and I know that all desire that really such a big area should not be there, but divided into two so that the administration might be more complete and effective.

Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur said, what is the meaning of the word "administration"? I think the word "administration" conveys this idea viz., that for the preservation of peace and order, for looking to the inconvenience of the people, if they want to seek any remedies from the district authorities, for judicial and other public work, they have got to go to the headquarters, and therefore the headquarters must be situated in such a way that they can afford sufficient facilities to all the people. No doubt it is true that a certain section of the people will feel much inconvenience. I mean the landholders and the lawyers. We all know that when the question of the transfer of judicial powers from Hooghly to Howrah was discussed, certain people who had vested interests at stake opposed, and opposes to the last, this transfer. The Howrah people were successful, and I do not know whether a similar movement is going on. It has been said in discussing this matter that because our financial condition is bad, it should be postponed. This will mean shelving the question, if no grant is made. I believe all these arguments are being put forward in the name of economy. There is a certain class of people who have got large landed interests at stake at Midnapore; they will suffer no doubt, and it will be to their interests to oppose this. Then, there are the lawyers, who have got some sort of practice there, and many of them perhaps would not like to shift to the new district, where, it may be, they may not have the same amount of practice or they would not earn the same amount of money if the district were partitioned. Members, while, deciding this, should kindly consider that it is not to the interest of a particular class of the people, but it is to the interest of the people as a whole, that this partition should be carried out.

Now, Sir, looking to the southern part of the district, there are villages at Hijli, Contai and other important places. If the representative of the Landholders' Association—I do not know whether this gentleman has ever been to the mufassal—had consulted the wishes of the people, then, he would have at once found that those people who are living in the southern part of the district would wish this partition, so that they could have headquarters somewhere else, closer to them as it is too far to go to Midnapore to have litigation there.

It has been argued that district administration simply means the appointment of a District Magistrate, and the duties of the District Magistrate have been, to a certain extent, reduced, because a non-official

Chairman has been appointed. I do not know whether the non-official Chairman, who is a member of this Council, would say anything in the matter, but the Chairman of the District Board has also got to say whether he can manage such a huge district as Midnapore effectively, whether he can deal with public works, such as roads, water-works, etc., in such a big area as Midnapore. As he has assumed charge not very long ago, he has got some idea of the amount of work which the Chairman of the District Board of Midnapore has got to do in connection with public roads; therefore, he would be in a position to tell the Council what really this work means.

Then, I have also referred to the Police, and if any gentleman will go to the interior of the villages, he will find that it is the universal wish of the people that this is such a heavy and big district, that it ought to be partitioned, so that the authorities may be able to look to the needs and necessities of the people more carefully.

It has been said that Midnapore is an agricultural district, and therefore it is all the more necessary that the agricultural movement or rather the movement for the advancement of agriculture in this particular district should be specially attended to by the authorities. If the co-operative movement is to be at all extended, and is to be made a success, I think, it could not be contested for a moment that we require a smaller area, so that the authorities in question may devote more of their attention to the work.

Take any portion of the administration, whether police, judicial, public works, agriculture or education. The members of the Council perhaps know that so far as education is concerned, I can speak with authority that so far as the Muhammadans are concerned, they are very backward. So far as the town of Midnapore itself is concerned, it is different. There a certain section of the people are well educated, but their interest is confined within the limits of the town itself So far as the mufassal people are concerned they are practically out of touch with the authorities and with the legitimate aspirations of the people in the town. In fact they are all leading the life of the ancient people, meek, humble and innocent of the ways of the world, of the progress in the world, and, if any life is to be introduced into them, into their lives, if any improvement is to be made in the condition of the peasantry, or the raiyats, it is absolutely necessary that the area of administration should be made smaller and smaller until the amount of work that is growing rapidly, can be sufficiently coped with.

Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: At this hour of the day, I do not want to inflict any speech upon this Council. I only want to say one thing, in order to be logical and consistent. If this House refused to allot money for the partition of Mymensingh, which is the largest district in Bengal, I think it would not be appropriate for this Council to grant money for the partition of the district of Midnapore.

With these words I support the motion.

Babu SARAT CHANDRA MUKHOPADHAYA: I am a member of the South Midnapore non-Muhammadan constituency, consisting of the Tamluk and the Contai subdivisions, which would form the new Hijli district. Sir, the motion of the Government to vote a grant of Rs. 7,25,000 for the partition of Midnapore means that they have invited us to discuss the partition scheme itself. We cannot, nobody can, possibly grant any money to anybody, unless it is satisfactorily established that the cause for which the money is wanted is a good one. Now, Sir, the cause is not at all a good one and, for that reason I oppose the motion and support the amendment. My grounds are simple enough.

Firstly, the people of the district, zamindars and raiyats, not only do not want the partition, but are one and all opposed to it. Government has decided to effect this partition in spite of the repeated protests of the people of the district. We do not at all see the utility of creating a new district headquarters within six or seven miles of an already existing one, and we look upon it as an absolutely unnecessary measure. In the second place, it will cut off and break asunder old associations. Thirdly, it will cause a very great inconvenience and very considerable hardship both to the people who have permanent houses in the town of Midnapore and those who are to attend district headquarters for business. Fourthly, it will cause an enormous expenditure of public money without any corresponding gain in any way.

The first and the second grounds are no doubt to a certain extent sentimental; but there is absolutely no reason why the sentiment of the entire district should not be respected, unless there are very cogent grounds to go against it. The third ground is very substantial. It is clear that the partition of the district will materially reduce the importance and necessarily the value of properties of the town of Midnapore. Many persons shall have to build new houses at the new district town at great cost, especially in these days of high prices. Those who shall have to go to the new district town for business shall suffer great inconvenience for want of accommodation for a long time to come, *i.e.*, until the new town is built and thoroughly developed. Then comes the question of initial and recurrent expenditure. The building of the new town with its office buildings and quarters for officers would entail a heavy initial expenditure. After that the carrying out of administration from two district headquarters would necessarily require a large increase in the staff, if not practically doubling it, causing a very considerable recurrent expenditure. I need hardly mention that the same difficulty will arise with the District Board. I further understand that only the Collectorate has so far been proposed to be partitioned and not the judiciary of Midnapore. This means a very great hardship upon the landlords and litigants, who will be obliged to set up two different establishments at two different district headquarters.

The reasons given by the Government to justify the partition are far from convincing. Broadly speaking the decision of the Government is based on so-called administrative efficiency or, plainly speaking, what Government says is this: "The district is too big to be properly administered from one centre." But a careful examination will show the futility of this. No doubt Midnapore, with its area of nearly 32,000 square miles and a population of nearly 2,800,000, is perhaps the second biggest district in Bengal. But that by itself does not show that it cannot be administered from one centre or that the administrative machinery will improve in any way. As a matter of fact, a respectable portion of the present Sadar subdivision of Midnapore is jungle mahals entailing no great administrative inconvenience to anybody. Further, the heaviness of work, which has been supposed to be the root-cause of this decision, has never been complained of by any District Magistrate—I go further and beg to point out that the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr, when he was our District Magistrate for a pretty long time, was originally of opinion that the partition of the district was not necessary. I do not deny that owing to gradual expansion in every way the works of every department have gradually increased to a considerable degree. But side by side with this it must be considered that the means of communication have improved immensely. District Officers can now reach subdivisional headquarters and the greater part of the district in less than half the time that they required twenty-five years ago. Furthermore, gradual decentralization has relieved the District Officers of a considerable part of their duties. The appointment of a non-official Chairman for the District Board, the transfer of the major portion of the Arms and Income-tax Departments to Subdivisional Officers and the appointment of an Additional District Magistrate have considerably reduced the work of the District Officers. Under such circumstances it is absurd to contend that the district, as it is, is too big for administration. There are many smaller districts in Bengal. It cannot be shown that the administration of the smallest district is in any way more efficient than this district. Lastly, even after the announcement of partition, the Government have spent large sums of money in constructing huge and substantial buildings for the Collectorate, and the hospital, and the waterworks scheme is also proceeding apace at an enormous cost. All this will sooner or later come to useless expenditure, if the partition takes effect, for the old town of Midnapore, after partition, is found to lose its present importance. I had a talk with the late lamented Raja of Narajole, who represented the North Midnapore constituency and had a very big zamindari in the district. He was strongly of opinion that the district should not be partitioned.

The last speaker has said that a man going to file an appeal at Ghatal is generally put to considerable difficulty in going a long way; but the proposed partition will not in any way improve the situation. Ghatal will remain within the appellate jurisdiction of Midnapore, as it is now.

He further said that Nandigram thana of the Contai subdivision is at a great distance from the sadar town; but the Nandigram thana and the Contai subdivision, according to the new plan, fall within the jurisdiction of the Hijli district; so the change will not improve the situation in any way. The litigant public will feel additional difficulty in coming to a new place where they will find no shelter for their witnesses and other men. For these reasons I support the motion that the demand be refused.

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: As the last speaker has referred to my opinion, may I have your permission to make a personal explanation?

He has said that when I was Collector of Midnapore, I did not consider the partition of the district to be necessary. I am at a loss to understand how such a misconception can have arisen. When I first went to Midnapore, there was a scheme before the public for creating a new district with Contai as its headquarters. I opposed that scheme, because I did not believe that it would be for the convenience of the inhabitants of the district. But I took a considerable part in working out the present scheme and I have always supported it both when I was Collector of Midnapore and subsequently.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not know what magnificent buildings will crumble into dust if this motion is carried, or what grandiose plans will come to rack and ruin if we decide that Midnapore should not be partitioned. I do not know even how powerful and convincing will be the arguments that will be advanced by the Hon'ble Member in charge to show us that we are wrong. But what I do know is this: that in spite of the statement of a member of this Council, the people of Midnapore do not want the partition (hear, hear). I believe that it is embodied in the District Administration Committee's report (and I am sure that the Hon'ble Member in charge will produce it in due course) that the people of Midnapore with one voice have proclaimed against the partition, that representations after representations have been made to Government by the people against the partition. I trust that this argument ought to weigh with this Council considerably, when they come finally to decide whether they should vote a grant against the wishes of the people. I do not really wish to waste the time of the Council in dealing with the arguments of Mr. Syed Nasim Ali, which, with due deference to him, I consider to be futile. He has said that a person has to travel 8 miles to go to a thana if he wishes to get hold of a constable; and the remedy, he says, lies in the partition and in creating more district officers. He has said that litigants have to travel great distances to go to Midnapore to seek remedy, and that the remedy is to bring litigation to the doors of the people and to create more district officers! If you are to decentralize, and decentralization is the only solution of such difficulties, you should

not effect it by creating more district officers but by creating more thanas and by increasing the number of subordinate officers of the police. We, the people of Midnapore, believe that the work of the Collector has considerably diminished, and that the Collector with the officers at his disposal, can and should manage the administration of the district satisfactorily. For these reasons, I support the amendments.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: This series of resolutions is fortunately so closely akin to that with which I have dealt a little while ago, that I am relieved from the task of repeating the general arguments which I then advanced as bearing on this question, and I will not now attempt to do so.

We have heard with much reiteration the cry that there is no case and there is no justification. It all depends on what is meant when we say that there is a case and that there is justification. Speaking broadly, and putting the case as concisely as possible, our argument is that if it is desired that these huge districts should be decently administered, it is essential to curtail their area, and we rely on the facts connected with these districts and the experience of a long line of officers to establish that contention.

Maulvi Syed Nasim Ali has fortunately assisted me in rescuing from ill-deserved odium the much abused words "administrative efficiency." We use "administrative efficiency" as a concise expression, summing up a number of things, and I have already referred the Council to the report of the District Administration Committee in which they will find pages of details and pages of statistics, explaining in what way this matter of partition has a bearing upon general efficiency. To judge by some of the speeches we have heard this afternoon, one would have thought that administrative efficiency meant a desire on the part of the Government to enable its collectors to go to sleep at 3 o'clock instead of at 3-30, and that it was merely the personal convenience of a few collectors which was at stake. It is curious that that belief should exist, and I can only repeat that the issues are of a far wider type. I previously mentioned the instance of village self-government, while Maulvi Nasim Ali has given the examples of education and co-operative societies. Let me give another example of the often urged needs of sanitation and drainage. Now, sanitation and drainage schemes do not fall from Heaven. In this province, they involve problems of great difficulty, technically and otherwise, and they involve problems of some complexity in the reconciliation of conflicting interests and in getting those concerned to see the advantage of the financial sacrifices involved. Now, if an advance is to be made in furthering these schemes, it will turn largely on the energy and enthusiasm of particular district officers, and if this is to be effective a collector must have charge of a district of such a size as will enable him to discover where

propaganda work which will be required if they are to be put through. That is one more example of what we mean by administrative efficiency; and, in short, we mean all that we believe to be for the good of the people of the district as a whole. On this point, as I have said, I do not wish to speak at any length; but I would only refer again to one point upon which rather more stress has been laid than in the case of the Mymensingh resolutions. We have heard from several quarters that if we only appoint more Additional Magistrates there will be no necessity for partition. We appoint Additional Magistrates and already we have done so, for instance, in Bakarganj, Mymensingh, the 24-Parganas and other districts. But may I read in this connection what is the deliberate finding of the District Administration Committee upon that solution? They say:—

The method of distribution of work between the two officers varies greatly in different districts, but one of two things always happens either the additional magistrate sinks to the level of an expensive joint magistrate; or there is a most deplorable division of authority, division of knowledge, and division of administrative grasp. The whole idea of "two Kings in Brentford" is foreign to the recognised scheme of Indian administration, and we are satisfied that it surpasses the wit of man to conduct this dual system in a satisfactory manner In fact it is the opinion of all who have seen the inner working of the experiment that it has been a signal failure. It has created administrative confusion and inefficiency, without in any way bringing the district officer into closer touch with the people.

I submit that the above verdict of an experienced body like the District Administration Committee is worthy of the consideration of this Council.

Now, turning to this particular scheme, what is it? Midnapore is a huge district of 5,145 square miles, and with a population of 2,800,000 people. The proposal, which the Government has made and is already in the course of execution, is to split this district in two, leaving the headquarters of one charge at Midnapore and placing the headquarters of the other at Hijli. Even granting that the division is made, one district will have an area of 2,600 square miles and a population of over a million, and the other will have an area of 2,457 square miles and a population of nearly 1¾ million people. In recommending this scheme to the Government of India in 1917, it was stated:—

The scheme is the result of careful consideration and discussion which has extended over more than ten years. It provides two districts of suitable size with the least possible disturbance of existing arrangements. Three of the existing subdivisions will not be affected at all, and the headquarters of the new district and of the new subdivisions are so situated as to be distinctly more convenient of access to the inhabitants of the areas concerned than the existing headquarters. Compared with the remaining districts in the Presidency, the proposed Hijli district will still have a larger area than eight districts, while the new Midnapore district will be larger than twelve. In point of population the Midnapore district will be larger than eight districts, and the Hijli district will be larger than eighteen

That sums up the proposal, and I cannot corroborate the assertion of the last speaker that the District Administration Committee frankly admitted that the whole of Midnapore opinion was against the partition. On a cursory examination of the papers, I find various remarks pointing clearly to the fact that they regarded much of the adverse criticism as fictitious and not representative of the opinion of the district as a whole, while I have already quoted their general remarks with reference to the nature of such opposition and the weight to be attached to it.

As I have explained in the case of Mymensingh, this scheme too is one of antiquity—of very respectable antiquity. The whole problem goes back to 1836. In 1836 some unwise administrator amalgamated the district of Hijli with Midnapore; and it is not without significance that only 16 years later (in 1852) Government wanted to have this undone, while in 1920 we have still not effected anything. In 1876 Sir Richard Temple drew up a scheme for dividing the district into two parts, but it was deferred for financial reasons. Sir Rivers Thompson recommended it in 1883, but it was dropped on financial considerations In 1904, in Sir Andrew Fraser's time, there was a committee which consulted the leading local men, but the proposals had to be abandoned, mainly because of Contai being considered undesirable as headquarters. The enquiry of 1906 was adjourned owing to the prevailing political excitement. In 1913, there was another enquiry, and in 1914 we had the exhaustive inquiries of the District Administration Committee endorsing the proposal. In November 1914, there was a deputation to Lord Carmichael and personal inquiries made by him; and in 1915 we had the final proposals elaborated in the Resolution of the 26th January 1915 In the face of these detailed enquiries and consultations, surely it is a little unreasonable of Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur to again say: "Let us consult public opinion." On two occasions, this matter too has been before this Council. In 1917, my predecessor, Mr. Lyon, argued the case at length, and the motion was eventually lost, another resolution to the same effect in the course of the debate being withdrawn. In 1918, another resolution was moved, was replied to by Mr. Kerr, and was again eventually withdrawn. On two occasions, therefore, this matter has been before the old Council, and has been endorsed by it.

I now come to the last point, regarding which, although the last speaker briefly alluded to "grandiose plans and magnificent structures," I fear that he was paying a compliment which the Public Works Department does not ordinarily receive; neither are the adjectives quite applicable to ordinary departmental buildings, nor are they applicable to the buildings we propose to construct at Hijli. However, it is important for the Council to realise what has really been done in connection with this scheme, because it can be differentiated from the Mymensingh scheme in two very important respects. The Mymensingh

project was, as I have said, one of about Rs. 75 lakhs. This scheme for Midnapore, on the estimate of works in progress, is for about Rs. 19 lakhs—a considerable difference. The recurring expense does not moreover amount to Rs. 2 or Rs. 2½ lakhs, as has been somewhat lightly said, but it was estimated in 1917 at Rs. 96,000. There is therefore, this important difference from the case of Mymensingh in that the project is much less expensive, although involving, it is true, a large sum. What is the second point of difference? In the case of Midnapore, we are far more deeply committed to the scheme than we are in the case of Mymensingh, where the expenditure, had been incurred mainly on land, and land is always to some extent an asset. The position here is different. Here we have actually spent up to March 1920 nearly Rs. 2 lakhs; and during the current year we shall spend nearly Rs. 6 lakhs—the figure in the printed statement is Rs. 5 lakhs, but Mr Walsh's latest information points to 6; that is Rs. 8 lakhs in all on works, while previously in 1913 or 1914, when we took up the land, we spent another Rs. ¾ lakhs. We are therefore already committed to the scheme to the extent of some Rs. 8¾ lakhs, or practically half the total cost involved. If we are now to abandon the scheme, that money will practically all be lost, to say nothing of any further liability before work now in progress or out on contract can be closed down. I cannot follow the Rai Bahadur in his hope that land speculation will persuade the millionaires of Calcutta to tide over the situation by securing land at fancy prices which, before we covered them with half completed structures, was *sal* jungle.

Let me explain in detail how the buildings stand. The main buildings are the following, and they are at the stages mentioned. The first group of buildings, viz., the circuit house, the dák bungalow and three sets of quarters, for deputy magistrates and for the deputy superintendent of police, is complete. The collectorate building is well in hand and is expected to be finished by June 1921—and a very fine collectorate it is. The jail buildings are expected to be completed by June 1921. On the police buildings work is in progress, and can be completed by October 1921. As regards the residences for the district magistrate, the joint magistrate, the civil surgeon and the superintendent of police, the progress is not very satisfactory, but the work is in hand and may be finished by September 1921. The remaining buildings are mostly of the category of quarters, though there is a scheme for a new civil court and another for a hospital, which, though desirable, is not immediately essential. As regards the new subdivision of Jhargram, the last report that we have received shows that the various buildings are under construction and are expected to be completed by the 31st May 1921. Therefore, we should be in a position actually to open this district in the course of the ensuing year.

In view of the lengthy past history which I have detailed—let alone this much abused point of administrative efficiency—and in view of our

commitments which I have explained, I put it to the Council that it is not a business proposition to ask us to drop this scheme at the present time.

A division was then taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Afzal, Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutta, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Ghatak, Rai Sahib Nilmani.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chundar.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Panirowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Ray, Babu Bhabendra Chandra.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh.
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra,
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.

NOES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr. C. H.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cochran, Mr. A.
Das, Mr. S. R.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
Donald, Mr. J.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Marr, Mr. A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-
Rhodes, Mr. C. W.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Watson-Smyth, Mr. R. M.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 58 and the Noes 32, the motion was carried.

Adjournment.

The Council was adjourned to Tuesday, the 22nd March, 1921, at 8 o'clock at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 22nd March, 1921, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Executive Members, the Hon'ble the three Ministers and 102 nominated and elected members.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): I regret to have to announce to you the death of another member of this Council, Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur, a prominent figure in Bengal politics—one whose opinion always carried weight with his countrymen. He attended the meeting of this Council held on Wednesday last and died on Sunday after a very short illness. The Rai Bahadur was a member of the old Legislative Council also for about five years. He was a leading lawyer in Burdwan, and was for years the Chairman of the Burdwan Municipality and Vice-Chairman of the District Board. To his activities in these local bodies the town of Burdwan owes its many works of public utility. Whatever work he undertook, he put his whole heart into it, and that was the secret of his success, which many of us would do well to emulate. He was a man of kindly and generous disposition, respected by all who came into contact with him. He died at the ripe old age of 77 years.

With your permission I should like to convey to his son Babu Sarat Chandra Basu, and through him to the other members of his family, an expression of our sympathy in the great bereavement they have suffered. I would ask members to mark their approval of the course I propose to take by standing in their places.

The Council agreed, all members standing.

Voting of grants.

The following motions were withdrawn:—

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 20,000 for the construction of a residence for the Additional District and Sessions Judge, Bogra, be refused."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 20,000 for the construction of a residence for the Additional District and Sessions Judge, Bogra, be refused."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 5,000 for the construction of quadruple munsifi at Netrakona be refused."

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 48,000 for the acquisition of land for the District Judge's residence at Comilla be refused."

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 48,000 for the acquisition of land for the District Judge's residence at Comilla be refused."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 48,000 for the acquisition of land for the District Judge's residence at Comilla be refused."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand for Rs. 48,000 for the acquisition of land for the District Judge's residence at Comilla be refused."

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: "That the demand for Rs. 48,000 for the acquisition of land for the District Judge's residence at Comilla be refused."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA moved "that the demand for Rs. 48,000 for acquisition of land for the District Judge's residence at Comilla be reduced to Rs. 10,000." I move it, because it seems to me that the demand is extravagant and unbusinesslike. When public funds are being generously distributed, it would be very natural for me to take as much as I can for my own town of Comilla, but I cannot be so free when the tax-payers' money is concerned, and especially when I know that these large demands are not at all necessary for the purpose of acquiring land. I hope this Council will permit me to give some details about the Additional District Judge's quarters at Comilla. The District Judge of Comilla is a permanent officer but the Additional Judge is not. He sits for a certain part of the year at Comilla and goes to Chittagong for the rest of the year. Government acquired a house for the Additional Judge some years ago for a sum of Rs. 25,000. I would request the members of this House to remember that the house included ground, out-houses, compound and everything. Now, the District Judge used to live in a hired house, which was unfortunately damaged about a couple of years ago. Since then, he has been living in the house meant for the Additional Judge. So, the Additional Judge has no house at all. When he comes to Comilla, he has to put up either with the Superintendent of Police or the District Magistrate or some other officer. Of course, it is very inconvenient, and we certainly feel that the Additional Judge should have quarters of his own. Now, the question is whether the sum of Rs. 48,000 is necessary for acquiring land for the District Judge's house. I have been in Comilla for several years. I have some houses there, and I know that in that town you can have one bigha of land for Rs. 4,000—that is the maximum amount. On that calculation, I think we can get 4 bighas of land for Rs. 16,000

and I submit to this Council that 4 bighas ought to be quite enough for the house of the District Judge.

Now, to look at it from a business point of view, the present District Judge gets a salary of Rs. 2,000; I have consulted the Civil List and found that generally District Judges get Rs. 2,250—they do not generally get more than that. On that calculation, the District Judge would pay Government Rs. 225 per month as house rent, which works at Rs. 2,700 a year. There are business men in this Council and I should like to put this question to them—how much they would invest for a house which would give them only Rs. 2,700 a year, including repairs, etc.? I submit that when Government paper is yielding 6 per cent., we ought to expect at least 6 per cent. on our outlay. Working on that basis, I find that Rs. 45,000 ought to be quite enough for building, land and everything for the District Judge's house. I should like to know if there is any criterion on which the Public Works Department or any other Department, which is responsible for this work, makes its calculation, when it makes houses for Government servants. I do not suppose it has got any. If it had, it would certainly not have come forward with a proposal like this—Rs. 48,000 for acquiring the land and probably Rs. 1,00,000 for building a house later on. This is a sort of extravagance, which this Council cannot allow, and considering the fact that the District Judge has, for the last two years, been occupying a house which cost Government only Rs. 25,000, I think it is absurd to expect this Council to vote a grant of Rs. 48,000 for acquiring land for his house. There is no proposal for building any house this year, the proposal is only for acquiring the land. So, I submit that no case has been made out for a grant of more than Rs. 16,000 for that purpose.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: When such veteran councillors as Babu Surendra Nath Ray, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri and others withdrew their amendments, and they did so wisely, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta should have thought twice before pressing his. As regards acquisition of land, the Land Acquisition Deputy Collector will always give less than the proper price—so my friend need not be anxious about that. We all know what the Land Acquisition Deputy Collector does. I know something of Comilla. My son-in-law, who is a Deputy Magistrate, got transferred there some time ago—he is not there now—and I know what difficulty my daughter and my son-in-law had in getting a house till I had to ask Kumar Aroon Chandra Singha to give his house to them. Government servants are always in a very bad way in the mufassal, so far as accommodation goes, and Government ought to provide for all of them.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I beg to support this motion for the simple reason that an expenditure of Rs. 48,000 for acquiring land at Comilla for the Judge's house seems to be extravagant. I do not know if in this matter any particular officer is concerned or anybody

with a predeliction for playing golf is concerned. I think the idea is that the occupant of the house would play golf in his compound, otherwise it seems absurd that a sum of Rs. 48,000 should be spent for acquiring the land for building a house. Do bring in motions which are reasonable and we are bound to support them. If you say that Rs. 48,000 is required for acquiring land at Comilla, you would surely say that another Rs. 1,50,000 would be required for the house. Well, under those circumstances, we are bound to oppose it. Be reasonable, and you can expect our cordial support. That is the way in which business ought to be done. Rupees 48,000 for acquiring land at Comilla? That would buy, on my friend's calculation, 12 bighas of land, and you want that for the Judge's compound? Necessarily you must have to build a palatial house there. Sir, there must be a limit even to extravagance. If you reduce it to a reasonable figure, I would support it. Rupees 16,000 would give a judge 4 bighas of land, and a house built on 4 bighas of land would be quite enough for the academical repose and cool thinking of a judge and none of his neighbours will be able to look at him when he is writing his judgment. If you are reasonable, we are reasonable. I quite appreciate Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur's argument that Government servants are put to much trouble over house accommodation in the mufassal, and I am perfectly willing to give them quarters, but you must be reasonable in your demand. And if you are reasonable the matter ends there.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I beg to support the motion. Any one who has an idea of the price of land in Comilla and the neighbouring districts will certainly have to come to the conclusion that Rs. 48,000 will be quite sufficient for even the compound of a prince's palace, and, if so much is spent for the acquisition of land, it will bring in its train perhaps another Rs. 1,50,000 next year, for the erection of a building. From what you have seen of a district judge I may take it that he belongs to high society both in England and in India. I have seen the district judges living in Chittagong, Comilla and Noakhali, but I have never seen them living in houses with a compound which should cost Rs. 50,000. The reason, for which Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur opposed this motion, seems to be that he must have heard something from his deputy magistrate son-in-law, but upon the basis of that second-hand or third-hand information an experienced councillor like him should not have wasted his breath.

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): I quite appreciate the difficulties of the mover and the other members of this Council who supported his motion. I can assure them that this figure of Rs. 48,000 does not really represent what we are resolved to give merely for the land required for the residence of the District Judge. The figure is taken from an older project. The

older scheme was to buy what used to be the Collector's house and that was the price for that house. But it was decided afterwards that that building was not a suitable one and the project was, therefore, given up. This figure of Rs. 48,000 is not going to be spent merely for the acquisition of the land. I admit that the entry in the estimates is somewhat inappropriate, and I can assure Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, as well as other members, that we do not mean to spend the whole sum for acquiring 12 bighas of land for the Judge's residence. We shall require what is sufficient for an ordinary residence of the District Judge and this is merely the approximate figure, and only represents the project we have in view. It may be that the whole sum may cover the entire cost and then we do not propose to spend anything more than what is required. There will be a standing committee appointed and that committee may very well examine this project. If the House accepts that situation, I do not think there will be any difficulty. We are not bound to spend Rs. 48,000 only for land for the Judge's residence. That is not the idea. The figure is taken from an older project. It is simply to put forward before the House that we have to build quarters for the District Judge that we have taken that figure as a sort of approximate figure.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May I take it that this sum is meant for both the house and the land?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I cannot commit myself definitely. But it is certainly not solely for the purpose of buying land. At any rate there will be a standing committee, who will examine this question and ascertain what amount will be required exactly.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Can I get an assurance from the Hon'ble Member that not more than 4 bighas of land would be required for the House?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: It would depend on the size of the house. It may be more than 4 bighas, but it would not be anything unreasonable. I can say this, however, that there is no idea of acquiring 12 bighas of land for this purpose.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: Does the Hon'ble Member think that 4 bighas of land are quite enough for the house of a District Judge?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: Let the matter be examined by the committee which is going to be appointed as to what would be required, and let the committee decide. It may be that the owner of the property which is sought to be acquired may object to severance. We cannot commit ourselves to the exact figure. But I can say that we have not committed ourselves to acquiring anything like 12 bighas of land. There can be no doubt, however, that it is absolutely necessary that quarters should be built for the District Judge. There is no house at

present, which is suitable for his residence, and it is of urgent importance that a house should be built. We are quite prepared, however, to have this project examined by a standing committee.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Does not the Hon'ble Member think that 4 bighas of land are quite enough for the purpose of building a house for the District Judge? I do not want an assurance from him—I only want his opinion on it, and with that I shall be satisfied.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I think that ordinarily it ought to be quite enough.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Then I am quite prepared to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: In view of certain facts which have been placed before me, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

It was as follows: "That the demand for Rs. 48,000 for the acquisition of land for the District Judge's residence at Comilla be refused."

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: "That the demand for Rs. 1,00,000 for the construction of a civil court building at Burdwan be refused."

The motion was withdrawn.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I have recently been to Burdwan and I have seen that the work has begun, and the work cannot be stopped now. So I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

It was as follows: "That the demand for Rs. 1,00,000 for the construction of a civil court building at Burdwan be refused."

The following motions were withdrawn:—

Babu SARAT CHANDRA JANAH: That the grant of Rs. 1,00,000 for the construction of a civil court building at Burdwan be refused."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 50,000 for the construction of a civil court building at Serampore be refused."

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 50,000 for the construction of a civil court building at Serampore be refused."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand for Rs. 50,000 for the construction of a civil court building at Serampore be refused."

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI moved "that the demand for Rs. 50,000 for the construction of a civil court building at Serampore be refused."

I beg to press this motion of mine. My information is that the original intention was to acquire 3 bighas 11 cottas and 12 chittacks of land. But by some mysterious process, that is not known to me at least, a house

has sprung up, which is meant for the Deputy Superintendent of Police and which covers 1 bigha 12 cottas of land, leaving now 1 bigha 19 cottas and 12 chittacks. Perhaps this plot has now been acquired by Government, and the idea is to construct a civil court building there. I had been to the plot and took pains to look into the court premises, and, though it was not in an ideal condition, I found it in a habitable condition. I am now told by some people—I do not know whether they are experts or not—that the house is unfit for habitation. Well, I have been in Serampore for over 11 years, and I find there are houses there which are older than this court house One of these houses we occupy as a hostel for our students where 30 or 35 of them live. So far as I am concerned, I am not in a position to say that this house is unfit for human habitation. But I am not yet convinced that it is absolutely necessary to build the court house this year It is going to cost us something like Rs. 1,36,000. We are always told—what is Rs. 50,000?—a mere drop in the ocean. But these drops go to make the ocean. If every time we have to give up items simply because they are drops in the ocean, the accumulated drops at the end may mean something tangible and substantial. If the Hon'ble Member, who is in charge of this matter, could show that it is absolutely necessary, or, if he could convince us that experts have looked into the matter and they are of opinion that it is most risky to use this house any longer and that it is unfit for human habitation, then I shall be prepared to withdraw my motion. But till then I think this Rs. 50,000 should not be spent this year.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I beg to oppose the motion. For the last 25 years I have been in touch with the Serampore Court as a pleader, and I can say that the house, in which the courts are located, is in a very bad condition There are four munsifs' courts in that house, and one of the munsifs sits in a very dark room, and another occupies a room in the lower storey, which is a very small one. The pleaders working in the court find great difficulty in finding a room.

Considerable difficulty was felt and is felt nowadays for the accommodation of the judges and the pleaders. A Small Cause Court Judge sits in that building and he finds difficulty because there is no comfortable office in which his *amlas* can sit. It is for these reasons that the District Judge of Hooghly made an investigation in the matter, and years previously a declaration was made that a large quantity of land was to be acquired. That declaration was not put before Government with the result that the matter was not taken up. More than 3 bighas of land were the subject-matter of acquisition, out of which a plot of land has been taken for the occupation of the Assistant Deputy Superintendent of Police. Under such circumstances the mover will be pleased to consider whether it is desirable to have a court house on a proper footing or not. It is the complaint of the people of the locality

that there should be a building suitable for the purposes of a court. The suitors themselves have no place to sit; they are obliged to go to the nearest shop for the purpose of accommodating themselves, when it is raining. Consequently the matter was taken up by the Collector and also by the District Judge, who, the other day, inspected the place, and are of opinion that a suitable court house be erected. I submit to the members of the Council that it is very desirable—I emphasise the word "desirable"—that there ought to be a court house there The old building in which the court is now held is not in a good condition. It belongs to a private gentleman, and I know it for certain that the private gentleman is not in a position to construct a house for court purposes unless the rent is increased. Consequently, difficulty was felt by those who are in charge of the court house, and hence communication was made with Government officers, who have very kindly taken up this matter .

With these few words, I oppose the motion.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: This is a very old project. As far back as Sir Andrew Fraser's time he inspected the court buildings at Serampore, and considered them extremely unsuitable. Since then attempts have been made to erect suitable court buildings there. The strong opinion of the local authorities will be apparent to the Council from what the District Judge placed on record in 1916. What he said is this:—

"Though I am fully alive to the financial stringency of the Government owing to the war, yet I feel constrained to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Judges the most unsatisfactory or even humiliating state of things that has to be suffered for the want of a suitable Government building for the accommodation of the civil courts at Serampore. Since about 30 years ago, a hired building has been used for the purpose at a monthly rental of Rs. 86. The building when rented was an old one, and has sustained deterioration by lapse of time The landlord is extremely reluctant to keep it in good repair, and, if pressed for it, threatens enhancement of rent. As no other house is available for the accommodation of the civil courts, and Government is not in a position to undertake the construction of this pressingly needed building the landlord has at last made up his mind to take advantage of the situation and has served on me a demand for rent at Rs. 125 a month. The building, if it were a Government one, might be condemned as unsafe for human habitation. But in spite of such a condition, it has to be retained by us at the mercy of the landlord. Such a position is simply intolerable and ought not to be suffered any longer.

Then there is another very cogent reason why this project should not be delayed any longer. The estimate in 1913 was for Rs. 62,840, then it was revised in 1915, when it went up to Rs. 1,10,000; and again in 1920 it reached up to Rs. 1,36,000. The longer we delay, the greater will be the cost. So I submit to the Council that this is a project, which should be carried out, and ought not to be delayed for a moment at all.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motions were withdrawn:—

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand for Rs. 71,000 for the construction of a pucca quadruple munsifi at Pirojpur be refused."

Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 71,000 for the construction of a quadruple munsifi at Pirojpur be reduced to Rs. 35,000."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI moved "that the demand under sub-head 'Original Works' under head '41—Civil Works (in charge of Public Works Department)' be reduced by Rs. 24,000 by the omission from the Budget of the provision for acquisition of land at Asansol for civil court buildings under heading '1.—New Major Works,' sub-head 'Judicial.'"

The reason for my moving this motion is that I had a talk with some leading men there and I have come to know that it is not a very urgent work, and any acquisition of land at Asansol this year can be safely delayed.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: The position is this: that there is no civil court building at present in Asansol, and there is only one munsifi. Another munsif has been added, and that officer has to hold his court in the Subdivisional Office, which the Council, I am sure, will consider is not desirable. Then Asansol, as every one knows, has been growing very rapidly in importance as an industrial centre. One Sub-Judge and an Assistant Sessions Judge have been posted there, and it is absolutely necessary that there should be a proper court building. The value of land is rising there very rapidly, as is natural, it being a growing industrial centre, and, if we do not hasten the work, the result will be that we will have to pay much more than we are expected to spend now. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1,49,000 and land has been acquired for Rs. 23,724. If the project is abandoned now, there can be no doubt that we will have to spend more in future. There is really no court room for all the civil officers that are stationed there. So I must press the Council to pass this grant.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motion was withdrawn:—

Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 98,000 for the construction of an upper storey over the Sub-Judge's court building, Alipore, be refused."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ moved "that the demand for Rs. 98,000 for the construction of an upper storey over the Sub-Judge's court building, Alipore, be refused."

With reference to this motion I am prepared not to press it if the Hon'ble Member in charge will let us know the details of the work that

is being contemplated. It seems to me that a demand of nearly Rs. 1,00,000 is a good deal too much for having an upper storey over a building which already exists. It is not as though we are going to have a new building altogether. When it is proposed to add one storey to the existing building, the sum that has been demanded seems to me somewhat extravagant. If the Hon'ble Member will be pleased to explain to us how it is that such a big amount is wanted, I am perfectly prepared not to press the motion.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: As regards this we have to depend entirely upon the opinion of experts. All that one can say is that the cost of building here has gone up very considerably in the last two or three years, and the estimate that has been furnished to us is that it will cost Rs. 98,000 to put up a second storey over the Sub-Judge's court building there. As regards the necessity of it I understand that there could be no question. The courts are very badly housed, and there is not room enough for all the Judges that are there. They want additional accommodation for the Additional District Judge and two munsifs, and so the entire second storey will be necessary for the purpose. But as regards the estimate I cannot say anything beyond this, that it is worked out, I take it, by experts, and we have got to rely upon their estimates. We have no other independent means of arriving at an estimate.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: In view of what the Hon'ble Member has said I do not wish to press my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion was withdrawn:—

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 52,000 for the construction of a residence for the Additional Judge at Barisal be refused."

As Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir Ali and Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur were absent, the motions standing in their name (items 181 and 182 in the List of Business) were deemed to have been withdrawn.

They were as follows:—

Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI: "That the demand for Rs. 52,000 for the construction of a residence for an Additional Judge at Barisal be refused."

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: "That the demand under head '45—Civil Works' for the construction of judicial buildings be reduced to Rs. 37,000."

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI moved "that the demand for Rs. 1,00,000 for constructing a residence for the Chief Justice of Bengal, Calcutta, be refused."

I do it on the ground not because I grudge the Hon'ble the Chief Justice a residence, but on the ground that I am not convinced that this is absolutely necessary this year, when we are confronted with a huge deficit. All these years the illustrious Chief Justices have managed to do without a permanent residence. Sir Barnes Peacock, Sir Richard Couch, Sir Richard Garth, Sir Comer Petheram, Sir Francis Maclean, Sir Lawrence Jenkins—a galaxy of illustrious names—all these great men have managed without a permanent residence. Why on earth is there a necessity for a house for the Chief Justice this very year, when we are confronted with an adversity Budget? That is the only reason which has prompted me to move this amendment. Besides, in the detailed estimates which have been placed in our hands there is no estimate given there. I simply find under the column "Estimates of expenditure for the year 1921-22" a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 has been put down. We do not know whether that is the final sum or whether this house is going to cost more later on, or this is only a fractional sum provided for this year. Is the Chief Justice without a house at the present moment? I have never been inside his house, but as far as I can judge from the outside, I think he is very comfortably lodged with all the modern appliances for comfort. If His Lordship is really in need of a more comfortable house, why not give him the Hastings House, which is now vacant and where there is ample ground? There is no one occupying the house now. We shall be very glad to have His Lordship accommodated there. I do not think there will be any difficulty, and, if we, poor people, can save a lakh of rupees, which can be given either for education or sanitation or for medical purposes that will be something.

With these few remarks, I beg to commend this motion to the Council.

The PRESIDENT: There are 4 or 5 identical motions. Therefore they need not be moved separately, but I will call upon the intending movers to speak on this item.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: As this matter concerns His Lordship the Chief Justice of Bengal, I have put down in writing what I have to say, as I want to be particularly careful. What appears to me is this: that this is no party question at all. It is purely a financial matter. The person for whom it is meant is no doubt a very high official. He is no doubt the head of the Bengal judiciary, to whom it is our bounden duty to show respect and also consideration if possible. But the most important point to consider is whether we shall be justified in spending money on a project of this description in the present condition of our finances. If we allow our frail financial resources to be depleted by constant onslaughts from quarters which have no legitimate claim on us, either moral, or legal, or statutory, then we shall be only helping the huge deficit in this year's Budget to be a permanent

friend of ours, necessitating the imposition of fresh taxes at no distant date on an impoverished people, on whose aching back the last proverbial straw has already been placed by the Government of India.

The first ground, therefore, on which I object to this grant, is that such a grant and others like it are calculated to perpetuate the huge deficit which it is our bounden duty to curtail. If it is true that on no account we can allow a fresh imposition of tax, then the only alternative we have is to reject this demand. Then, again, if we once accede to a grant of this description for providing house accommodation for big officials—if we once allow the flood-gates to be opened—then we do not know where we shall be able to stop. For certainly it is not the Chief Justice alone amongst the big officials who lives in a tenanted house, but there are several big officials also, and I am somewhat disposed to think that this is only a feeler in the name of His Lordship the Chief Justice; others equally fortunate or unfortunate will then come up with proposals regarding their respective houses. This is merely the thin end of the wedge and we must be very vigilant from the very commencement.

Then comes the second point of my objection, that as a business proposition, looking from the point of view of finance, we ought to set our face against it. Last night the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler taught me in connection with the Midnapore partition debate, to look at these questions from a "business" point of view. I thank him for this lesson and I propose to look at this question from that standpoint.

Now this demand of Rs. 1,00,000 for a house for the Chief Justice is merely the first and the smallest instalment of the total cost, which is bound to be something like Rs. 3,00,000—nobody except those who are in nursery would believe that the house for the Chief Justice could be built now for Rs. 1,00,000—in these days of abnormal prices of materials, excluding the value of the land, which at the lowest possible computation would be above Rs. 1,50,000—taking the same to be 2 bighas in extent only. Thus the cost of the house and land would be Rs. 4,50,000, or say Rs. 4,00,000 at the very least. The interest on the capital sunk in the house at even 6 per cent would be Rs. 24,000 a year. I am now a business man. The cost of maintenance of such a house, even at the very low rate of one per cent. per year, is Rs. 4,000. Our expenses therefore come to be at least Rs. 28,000 a year. That is certain. Now what are we going to have in return? I am told that it is 10 per cent. of His Lordship's salary, which means Rs. 7,200 a year. By a simple process of arithmetic, though I do not claim much knowledge in that branch of science, it comes to this, that we undergo a net loss of about Rs. 21,000 a year. This is from a business point of view. What do you think of it as a business proposition, and how have the custodians of public money to deal with a question like this I would ask the House?

My third ground against this demand is that there is no urgency about it. For it cannot be pretended that the interests or the quality of public justice is suffering in the absence of a State residence for that high judicial dignitary. There are houses available in Calcutta for those who can pay high rent. In this connection I may state that, if it is necessary at all to give His Lordship a State residence,—a proposition for which there is no justification—why then not give the Hastings House at Alipore to His Lordship? It is lying useless now. It was acquired to be a guest-house for the Government of India guests when that Government was there. Its last occupants, the Residential School for the boys of the rich men of Bengal, have left. It is an ideal residence, which was established by the Right Hon'ble Warren Hastings. If it was sufficient, for him, I am certain that it is sufficient for His Lordship the Chief Justice. It is a most desirable place for a State residence—with its lakes and park and a grand residential house—next in Calcutta only perhaps to Belvedere. Looking at it again from a business point of view, it comes to this, that we have nothing to spend for this house, and we shall get Rs. 7,200 for its upkeep.

Then there is one other thing that strikes me, and it is this. I do not know whether, if His Lordship the Chief Justice happens to know that he is going to occupy a house and that he will be paying only one-fourth of its actual rent, His Lordship will condescend to accept a favour from Government at all. So far as I know, I do not think, that if this is explained to him, he would like to get a bounty from Government to the tune of Rs. 18,000 or Rs. 20,000 a year. On behalf of the people I must make a protest against this action on the part of the Executive Government of Bengal to be exceedingly friendly to the Chief Justice, the head of the judiciary. So long as they remain apart it is better for the people all over the country, and so long as they are friends, and practically they are, I suppose, anxious to oblige each other, it is so far bad for the people of my country. Therefore this is an arrangement against which I must make a serious protest. If the pay of the Chief Justice is considered insufficient, His Lordship is perfectly entitled to move the authorities to make it Rs. 10,000, but I do not think His Lordship will condescend to take a grant, a bounty, a bonus from the Executive Government to the tune of Rs. 18,000 to Rs. 20,000 a year. I am perfectly sure that, if matters are explained to His Lordship, he will at once say, "Well I do not want the charity."

With these few words, I support the motion.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: As one of those who had sent in notice of this motion, I think I owe it to myself to say a few words by way of taking part in the debate. I feel I would have done better if I had also written out a speech, because that would have protected me from slips of the tongue, particularly because I have been guilty on one or two previous occasions of some irreverent references to the High

Court. I will, however, guard myself on the present occasion, because I know that the Lordships of the High Court are perhaps, by a judicial fiction, somewhat sacrosanct, almost immune from criticism, judicial or otherwise. At the present moment we are concerned with rather a matter-of-fact question whether this Council ought to grant a lakh of rupees meant for building a residence for His Lordship the Chief Justice.

Now there are three main grounds on which I oppose this grant. They have been mostly dealt with by the previous speakers and, if I beg leave of the Council to repeat them, it is only for the purpose of emphasising them and of reminding the members that before they cast their vote one way or the other they have got to take all these matters into consideration.

In the first place, I agree with Babu Surendra Nath Mullick when he says that the head of the judiciary should take care not to come into touch with the executive, either direct or remote. I remember there is, at any rate, a story current in the High Court that one of the leading barristers there refused invitations to the houses of Judges on the sole ground that, if he were to accept hospitality, he would not be able to render full justice to his clients in court. I am told that there are some Chief Justices who excuse themselves from attending functions at Belvedere simply because they thought that by yielding to temptations of that character, they might involuntarily be led to show some kind of inclination to favour the executive at the sacrifice of their independent judicial judgment. I am not going to say that occupying a house built at Government expense need necessarily bring His Lordship the Chief Justice into such a difficult position, but the fact remains that the learned Chief Justice, if he were to live in a house built by Government under the present circumstances and at a high cost, which is likely to be incurred by the public exchequer, he will have to accept a sort of favour from the Executive Government.

My reasons for saying so bring me to the second ground on which I oppose this grant. The Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim has just now told us that the cost of building materials has gone up so very high that it is difficult to build any permanent structure at a moderate cost at the present moment. He was just explaining to us that adding a second storey—only adding a second storey—to a building at Alipore—and not a very big building either—costs us about a lakh of rupees. If that is so, it is absurd that it will be possible to build a suitable residence for the Chief Justice of Bengal at a cost of only a lakh of rupees. I don't think the Government claims that it will be able to finish the structure at a cost of a lakh of rupees. I take it, although the estimates have not been given to us, that the structure, the building materials, the land and everything all told will cost not less than three lakhs of rupees and, if the Chief Justice were to pay a tenth part of his salary

it would not bring us interest of more than 2½ per cent.; that is ordinary arithmetic. Is it fit, is it proper, is it admissible, is it wise to enter into an enterprise of this character at a time of financial crisis which brings us a return of only 2½ per cent? I ask the Council seriously to consider this. How can we go out before the public and justify this grant if the public were to ask us, "how could you feel yourself justified in investing three lakhs of rupees which brings you in return only Rs. 7,200 a year? Is that economy? Is that dealing with public money in the way in which you should deal? Is it doing your duty to your constituents?" I submit that if the Government are to force us to give them this grant, they will simply be putting us in a very difficult position before the public.

My third reason for opposing this grant is briefly this. I quite appreciate that in the mufassal it is difficult for Government servants to find suitable residences, but that cannot be said in the case of Calcutta. With all our difficulties in this respect it is quite easy for those who are in enjoyment of high salaries and fairly good incomes to get fairly habitable houses for residence. All those houses from the south of Ripon Street downwards up to Bhowanipur, big palaces, can be had at a monthly rent of Rs. 700 to Rs. 800, that is a rent which the Chief Justice can always afford to pay. I don't know if some member is objecting to this remark or challenging the correctness of this remark. If really it is difficult to get a suitable residence fit for His Lordship the Chief Justice at a monthly rent of even Rs. 1,000, is it right for His Lordship to expect that he should be accommodated in a house for which he will have to pay Government only Rs. 600 a month? Will His Lordship come forward to pay Rs. 1,200 a month or 20 per cent. of his income as a rent towards the house which he is going to occupy? I suppose, not. It brings us to the point emphasised by Babu Surendra Nath Mullick that the Chief Justice will occupy a house for which the ordinary rent will be Rs. 1,200 a month, but for which His Lordship will be allowed by the Executive Government to pay Rs. 600 a month: I am talking of Rs. 1,200. Now, I submit, and what I was submitting as my third ground is therefore this, that, whatever may be the conditions in the mufassal, His Lordship the Chief Justice can always find a suitable residence in Calcutta.

I have briefly stated the three reasons, which induce me to oppose this grant, and although I very much appreciate the difficulties, which there may be in the way of Government if this grant is not voted, the Government, we hope, will also consider our position and our responsibilities in this matter and not call upon us to vote a grant which we will not be able honestly to justify to our constituents.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: As a similar motion stands in my name, I need not move it separately, but simply support the one now before the House. In doing so I wish to have some information

regarding an item of Rs. 13,000 in the last year's estimate. I do not know whether that amount was spent on preliminary survey of the area or for any other purpose.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: For raising the site of the building.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Now I understand it. This year a sum of one lakh is provided. We do not know what our final commitment in regard to this item is going to be, and whether this one lakh will be increased by three, four or five lakhs more. I beg to be excused for saying that we find that we are placed in a difficult position. Perhaps we will be called obstructive, or we will be accused of hampering the Government, but we do not express our opinion on the subject till we know the full facts. We are asked to vote a grant. This, in my opinion, is the essence of the Reforms, that we have got the purse-strings in our hands. I would ask the Hon'ble Member to consider seriously, and most seriously, that, if he is asked to make a grant out of his own pocket for any particular purpose, would he not like to know what the final cost was going to be? If he is asked to pay Rs. 5,000, would he not ask whether it would be finished with Rs. 25,000?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: The total estimate is Rs. 2,48,000.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: To this Rs. 2,48,000 the value of the land must be added, and I say, with the utmost respect to the authority concerned, that if this be done the total cost would amount to something like Rs. 3,50,000. Supposing we float a loan, we will have to pay 6 per cent. plus 1 per cent. for sinking fund. But I understand that the Chief Justice will only pay 10 per cent. of his salary as rent, so there will be a loss to the public exchequer of a considerable sum of money. To cite a parallel case, the Improvement Trust pays a reinstatement cost (I hope Mr. Bompas is here—and will corroborate me) to people who are forced out of their dwellings. The Trust have been giving them land and the cost of the land is made a charge on the property at the rate of 5 per cent. Quite recently they found that it was not possible to obtain money from the market at anything less than 6 per cent. On the recommendation of Mr. Bompas, the Improvement Trust increased the rate of interest to 6 per cent. I think that in this case, even if we take 6 per cent. of the entire outlay as rent, the rent would amount to about Rs. 2,000 a month. So in building a residence for the Chief Justice the public exchequer will lose a considerable sum of money.

As regards building houses for high officials at public expense, I do not know the policy of Government. We find that only two officers have houses built for them at public expense, namely, His Excellency the Governor (it is quite befitting his position that he should have a

residence provided at public expense) and the Right Revd. the Bishop of Calcutta. Is it intended that all other high officials should have buildings provided at public expense? If that be so, we ought to have that policy discussed in the Council before we embark on any expenditure on a single item. But, as I have said, we are confronted with a difficult position, because the building has already been started, a contract has been entered into with Messrs. Martin & Co., and one storey of the building is about to be completed. In these circumstances I think there is nothing left for us but to vote the money asked for, as if we do not proceed with the construction of the house we shall have to pay damages to the contractor, with whom we made an agreement. Is it not, I respectfully ask, playing with the so-called powers which we possess to ask us to vote a demand when the contract has actually been entered into? This will give a handle to those who are disposed to carp at the Reforms. I do not quite understand that, if it was really intended that the vote of the House was to be obtained for this item, how could a contract be made previously before such a vote was obtained?

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: The matter has been fairly thoroughly discussed and I do not think it necessary to go over the same details. I should only like to point out one or two facts as they strike me. The question has been very well discussed by Mr. Mullick and I should not go into his details. But I think that it would have been more fair to this Council, if the Government had come forward with a proposal to increase the pay of the Chief Justice and not give him a house, because it practically means that he secures the advantage of getting higher pay than what he is getting now, by taking a house, for which he will have to pay much less than what the actual rent of the house would be. It seems quite possible that in the near future, we may have Indian officers working as Chief Justices of the High Court. In that case, I do not think any house will be necessary. So, I do not see how the Government could make out a good case that a house for the Chief Justice, as such, as necessary in Calcutta. Then, again, it seems to me that the question of having a house for the Chief Justice is rather the thin end of the wedge, because, I believe, there are some other Judges, who have come out from England, who may also say that they find it difficult to get houses in Calcutta. One of these days, we may be called upon to provide houses for them. So I think it is desirable that we should cry "halt" at this moment, when we have got this opportunity. Then a question has been raised that a contract has been entered into and that work has already been commenced. I should like to know whether it is not a fact that during the last fortnight or three weeks, the work has proceeded at rather an extraordinary pace. Then, again, I think that it would have been more fair to this Council to place this demand on a non-voted list, because it seems to me to be rather adding insult to

injury to come to this Council and say, "Well, we are committed and you have got to vote for this grant; otherwise, we should be sued for damages and things like that." It is hardly fair to ask us to vote this grant. With these words, I beg to support this amendment.

Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: Charity, it is said, always begins at home, so let us be charitable at home. First of all let us build houses for our Executive Councillors. They are very high officials. The Hon'ble Mr. Kerr nods and approves of my idea. Then, we should also build houses for our Ministers. Here is an old Minister who runs all the way from Barrackpore to Calcutta. I should like to build a residence for him here, as he has not got one in Calcutta. There is the Hon'ble President sitting there, and I should like to give him a house too, and why not to the other members? Last of all I come to the mufassal members. Why do you not build a stable or barrack for the mufassal members? You have no idea of the difficulties under which they labour. I am told that Government have engaged some hotels at Delhi for the accommodation of members coming from the mufassal. But what have you done in Calcutta? Unless we depend upon the charity of friends, we do not know where we are to live. If arrangements can be made on the ground floor of the Town Hall for their sleeping accommodation, I think the mufassal members will be very grateful to the House. On the question of principle, I am decidedly against the construction of such houses. It has been pointed out that only two high officials have got houses. With regard to His Excellency the Governor, we have nothing to say. He represents Royalty. There is also the Lord Bishop of Calcutta. Now, if you go on building houses for other officials, I do not know where we are to stop. What special consideration is there for bringing up this subject? I am curious to know how this question cropped up. If all the eminent Chief Justices mentioned by my friend, Mr. Mukherji, could live in Calcutta and dispense even-handed justice without having a house built at State expense, what was the special circumstance which led the Executive Government to move in this matter? The Executive Government, at least in the past, was not very friendly towards the judiciary, and now they are going to hobnob together. This is an idea which is not at all palatable to us. We enter our strong and emphatic protest against this idea. Then in the interests of the poor rate-payers, when this question has come up before us, we are, as their mouthpiece, bound to enter our protest and vote out any grant, which is proposed by way of luxury and convenience to the highly paid officials of Government. We can understand an increase of a rupee or an increase of a couple of rupees to poorly paid officers of Government in these days of stress and strain, but, when so many palatial houses are available in Calcutta, I do not know what earthly reason there can be for building houses for high officials.

Now this point has been raised by my friend Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, that the work has begun. We know that there are other purposes, for which, if the house is partially built or built at all, it can be utilised, and that is no reason why we should vote this amount

Then, again, this step will not be at all looked upon with favour by the proprietors of houses at Calcutta If all the high officials get their houses built for them, what are house-owners going to do with their houses? How are they going to let them? Not to the poor members of the Bengal Legislative Council? They cannot afford to pay Rs 500 or Rs. 600 a month. So, from their point of view this is also objectionable, and in the name of the poor people of Bengal and in the name of the rate-payers I seriously object to the voting of this amount for building or constructing a residence for the Chief Justice of Bengal Of course it should not be said, and no one should run away with the idea, that I have no respect for the chief of the judiciary. Belonging to the legal profession, I have the profoundest respect for him. The new Viceroy is coming. He also belongs to the legal profession, so that, unless we vote out this amount before the advent of the new Viceroy, I do not know what will happen to this proposition.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Under the rules of this House, I sent up my name when I had something to say. I find, however, that most of the members who have spoken before me have anticipated me, but yet since I have been called upon to speak, I must have my say Babu Surendra Nath Mallik has spoken for the Midnapurians and I only regret that Sir Henry Wheeler will not be called upon to justify this expenditure as a business proposition. We do not know—we seek information—as to what are the commitments of the Government, the commitments of the Government as regards the architect and the builder, the commitments of the Government as regards any promises that they might have made to the Chief Justice, I do not know how far at present they can resile from the position that they have taken up and much, I think, will depend upon what explanation the Hon'ble Member in charge will be able to offer for what we consider as wanton waste; but, if there are commitments, I think a very easy solution would be, if you have to build this house, to utilise it for other and more useful purposes We ardently hope that in course of time, and not at a distant future, we shall be able to speak in a better building than the present one. We cannot find money for a legislative room for ourselves, and yet we are asked to provide money for a building, for which apparently there is no urgent necessity. Use it therefore, if use it you must, for other purposes and better purposes, and purposes that will be more in line with the desires of the people.

I cannot sit down without just one word. I do not know what Sir Abd-ur-Rahim meant when he spoke about the high value of buildings specially, when it is the Government that undertakes to build for

itself. But it strikes us that it is the notorious propensities of the Public Works Department that is responsible for this state of affairs, and the sooner we embark upon a reform in that direction the better for us and for our finances.

As to the proposition about Hastings House, perhaps it has not occurred to the hon'ble members, who have advocated it, that, if the Government could only see its way to accommodate the Chief Justice at Hastings House, the Chief Justice would only be too glad to occupy it. It is a magnificent building, it is a most comfortable building, and I am sure that Government must be intending it for a different purpose, and a more expensive and a more necessitous purpose than that of providing a building for the Chief Justice, though it may be that other Chief Justices too while meting out even-handed justice living in their own homes have, each one of them, endeavoured at some time or other to have an official residence for themselves.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: The speakers who have preceded me have vehemently asserted that they have great respect for the Hon'ble Chief Justice, but the motions which they have moved, and the reasons which they have assigned for them, do not show that they want to keep up that respect. I beg to submit that our refusing to grant this amount implies that they want the Hon'ble Chief Justice to reside in a rented house. The Improvement Trust of Calcutta has provided Calcutta with palatial mansions and buildings, but at the same time the high prices that have been attached to these buildings, have made it a prohibitive business altogether. I submit at the same time that the Chief Justice, being at the head of the judiciary, should be above the necessity of renting a house, because he has to discharge judicial duties. The fact of his having to reside in a rented house may interfere with his judicial work. I do not say that it is so, but there may be considerations, which will interfere with his judicial work. Therefore, to give the Chief Justice a house, for which he has to pay, even a smaller sum than he would have to pay on account of a rented house, is a necessity which this Council ought to take into consideration. Therefore I oppose this motion. There are gentlemen who say that they entertain the highest respect for the Chief Justice; that respect ought to be shown in a way which is unassailable. The head of the executive, the Governor of Bengal, has Government House. Why should not the head of the judiciary have a residence also?

With these observations, I beg to oppose this motion.

Mr. C. MORGAN: I move that the question be now put.

The PRESIDENT: I wish to give the Government member an opportunity to speak. After that, if the closure is moved, I shall put the motion before the Council.

Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: Do you think you are right in allowing the Government Member and not a private member an opportunity to speak now?

The PRESIDENT: If the closure is moved and not carried, other speakers will have an opportunity to speak.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: The matter must be looked at from a broader point of view than we have heard from the members. No one will deny that it is very difficult nowadays to find a suitable house in Calcutta for the Chief Justice of Bengal. I think there are many members in this Council, who know from experience, and can bear me out, that when a new Chief Justice is appointed from England, he has to look about for a house, and in the present condition of things, there cannot be the least hesitation in saying that, if a new Chief Justice were to come from England, he would find the greatest difficulty in securing a suitable house. The question of finding an official residence for the Chief Justice of Bengal is by no means a new one, as has been supposed by some of the members. Indeed, some of the members suggested that the decision was arrived at, and contracts entered into in this connection for the construction of this house after the Reforms Scheme came into operation, and that the Government ought to have given an opportunity to this House to pronounce an opinion upon the propriety of this scheme. As a matter of fact, the decision to build a house for the Chief Justice was arrived at before the new Council came into existence, and therefore it could not be rightly complained that we did not take the House into confidence. The fact is that this matter dates back as far as the time of Sir Francis Maclean. It was felt desirable that the Chief Justice should not be put to any inconvenience with regard to his residence. It has been for some time extremely difficult to secure a suitable house in Calcutta. Landlords are not by any means always ready to oblige tenants, however high their position may be, and I think the Council will agree with me that it is not right for the Chief Justice of Bengal to be expected to put himself under any obligation of that sort. That, I think, is a considerable justification, if not a complete justification, for the Government trying to build an official residence for the Chief Justice of Bengal. The matter was suggested, as I have told you, first by Sir Francis Maclean about 12 years ago, and the then Bengal Government readily assented to the proposition, but for some reason or other, it was not carried out for a long time; partly owing to financial difficulties. But financial difficulties are growing daily, and it was at last decided that a scheme of this sort should not be indefinitely postponed.

It was suggested by some of the speakers that this is the thin end of the wedge, and that Government will build similar houses for other high officials. I can assure the House that this is not the case

at all. Although there may be some members of this Council who are finding it difficult to obtain houses, I think the case of the Chief Justice stands on a somewhat different footing. The members of this Council and the Ministers are men, who are either residents of Bengal, or who are already in service in Bengal, and they, most of them, have been some time in Calcutta, and they would have houses already, but the Chief Justice comes out from England; his position is very different. It is these considerations that have induced the Government to build a house for the Chief Justice.

Then as regards the cost; undoubtedly the cost will be very high, it will amount to Rs. 2,58,000 exclusive of the price of the land. We cannot possibly charge the Chief Justice anything like 6 per cent. of this investment, but, if the House thinks it desirable in the public interest, that there should be an official residence for the Chief Justice, then I think it ought to be prepared to make some sacrifice in this connection.

To my mind the most cogent consideration why this Council should vote this amount for the construction of this house, is that the contract has already been placed, we have asked Messrs. Martin & Co. to build this house, and they have begun building operations; the building has come up above the ground floor—

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: When was the contract entered into? What is the exact date?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I cannot give the exact date: it was some time in December.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: Was it not after we sent in these motions, that the foundations were started? It is opposite my house, very near to it, so I ought to know.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: It is not so: it was before the notices of this motion. I do not think it is right for anybody to suspect that the Government is in any way anxious to push on this work at the expense of the public, without giving the matter proper consideration. As a matter of fact, the matter has been under the consideration of the Government for several years, and it was hurried on owing to the present state of things regarding the housing problem in Calcutta—

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: May I rise to a point of order? If the building work has proceeded in due course, how is it that no expenditure has been shown besides Rs. 13,625 for expenditure for raising land under column "Probable expenditure, 1920-21?" I think therefore we can rightly assume that no expenditure has been

incurred so far as building work is concerned. Will the Hon'ble Member in charge kindly explain?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I cannot say; this is a matter in which the Financial Department is concerned. The item has been set out in the Budget, and, what I submit to the House is that there are very cogent reasons why this money should be voted, as if this money is not voted, the result will be that the work that has been started, will not only be thrown away, but we shall have to pay very heavy compensation. I am advised that this compensation will be a very substantial amount: it may not be as much as the cost of the building, but it will be a very heavy amount. Is it advisable to abandon this project and pay compensation like this? I must point out that the House is already committed in several cases, and will have to pay heavy compensation in the way of damages, that will have to be paid to different parties on account of certain votes. We will have to pay a heavy compensation, so I think the wisest course will be to build this house and complete the scheme.

One suggestion was made, which I think I ought to answer. That there is Hastings House available, which could be utilised as a residence for the Chief Justice. The member who made the suggestion is not aware that Hastings House is not at the disposal of the Government of Bengal, but at the disposal of the Government of India. There are officers of the Government of India located in Calcutta who cannot find suitable residences, and it is extremely likely that Hastings House will be made over to these officers for their residence. That house is not available to the Government of Bengal, and therefore that consideration is entirely irrelevant.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: May I have your permission to ask one question regarding this House?

The PRESIDENT: You may put a question, but you cannot cross-examine the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: The property belongs to the Government of India and they want it for the benefit of their own officers, and the hon'ble member can take it from me, that there was no alternative except to build a house, luckily for the Bengal Government there was this land at Pora Bazar available. The project in connection with Pora Bazar has had to be curtailed, and partially postponed, owing to want of funds, but so far as this particular matter is concerned, it was found advisable in the public interest to utilise a portion of this land for the building of this house for the Chief Justice.

Mr. C. MORGAN: I move that the question be now put.

The question that the question be put was then put and agreed to.

The motion was then put, a division being taken, with the following result:—

AYES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Afzal, Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Cochran, Mr. A.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Chatak, Rai Sahib Nilmani.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Cordon, Mr. A. D.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Makramali, Munshi.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Mitra, Rai Mahendra Chandra Bahadur.
Morgan, Mr. C.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray, Babu Bhabendra Chandra.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor
Rhodes, Mr. C. W.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilall Singh.
Roy Chaudhuri Babu Sailaja Nath
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.

NOES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Benerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr. C. H.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Das, Mr. S. R.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
Donald, Mr. J.
Chose, Mr. D. C.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Marr, Mr. A.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-,
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.,
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Watson-Smyth, Mr. R. M.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 63 and the Noes 34, the motion was lost.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI moved "that the demand for Rs. 10,000 for reconstructing some of the police buildings at Peelkhana be refused."

In view of the large deduction made in the Police Budget, I will not press this resolution, and ask permission to withdraw it.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY being absent, the following motion fell through: "That the demand for Rs 40,000 for reconstructing some of the police buildings at Peelkhana be refused."

The following motions were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand for Rs 15,000 for constructing police buildings at Joydebpur be refused."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand for Rs 20,000 for constructing a small investigating centre at Rupganj in the Dacca district be refused."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand for Rs 10,000 for constructing a small investigating centre at Rajabari be refused."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand for Rs 15,000 for constructing police building at Mukshedpur, Faridpur, be refused."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand for Rs 50,000 for the construction of a new police sub-station house at Kalighat and acquisition of land for the same be refused."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA moved "that the demand for Rs. 50,000 for the construction of a police section house on the Russa Road, Bhowanipur, be refused."

I move this amendment mainly on two grounds, viz., first, that this new section house is meant, I believe, for a new outpost, and is not of urgent necessity; and, secondly, that the system of having outposts has not, I believe proved of much success. Since sending in this amendment, I have tried to get as much information as possible, and I must confess that it is very difficult for a layman like myself to get accurate information, but I shall state the figures that I have been able to gather, and, if I am wrong, I should like the Hon'ble Member to correct my mistakes.

So far as this outpost is concerned I believe it is a new experiment introduced since 1916 by Mr Clarke. Now, there are altogether 26 thanas in Calcutta, and, I believe, 18 outposts have already been established. So far as I understand, the general rule has been that these outposts have been in charge of a European or Anglo-Indian sergeant, and under them are placed head constables and constables. Now, the thanas generally are occupied in investigation work, and these outposts are mainly for watch and ward work, as it is called. This outpost system has been introduced as a sop to the cry for decentralisation.

Decentralisation may be good up to a certain extent, but surely, I think, in this case, the matter has been carried too far, and for the following reasons.

In these outposts, as far as I know, no record is kept of old offenders and criminals, and the police sergeants, who are generally in charge of these outposts, find it rather hard to keep in touch with these old offenders and criminals, and it so happens, even, I am told, that the thana officers, who go out on investigation work, find it difficult to carry on their work, because they can get no information from these police sergeants, and their head constables are not always available and efficient to help in the investigation work; so that, it seems to me that this outpost system, instead of being a help, is rather a hindrance.

Then I find from the annual report of the police administration of the town of Calcutta and its suburbs for the year 1919 that it is stated that during that year crime increased by about 10,000 cases; that shows that the outpost system has not been efficient. Again, I find that the old crime of *goondaism* has also increased since 1916, and it is quite natural that the officers in charge of these outposts should not be able to check *goondaism* as efficiently as the Indian Inspectors and Sub-inspectors, because, as pointed out, these sergeants cannot be expected to be in touch with the old offenders and old criminals, who have had previous convictions, as no record of these people is kept at the outposts.

As regards the increased cost of the Calcutta police, I find in a resolution of the Government a very interesting statement that, as the cost of the administration thus increases, the question must soon arise whether Calcutta should not be called upon to pay more directly than it at present does for the service it receives. Now, for a system which is mainly for the benefit of the inhabitants of some section of Calcutta, I think it is very unwise to ask the Government, in this year of financial stress, to make this large expenditure. We have heard that a special sub-committee will be appointed in connection with the working of the Police Department. In view of the fact that it is not quite certain that the outpost system has been much of a success, I think it is up to this sub-committee to consider whether this system should continue or whether a change is necessary. Under these circumstances, I think no case has been made out for the demand for an additional outpost in Bhowanipur. With these few words, I beg to move this amendment.

The PRESIDENT: The next motion (No. 197) being identical to that just moved, the mover of No. 197 may now speak in support of the previous motion.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I support the motion, and I hope that without taking much time of the Council it will be carried.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I have been listening with great interest to the speech that has been delivered by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta; and although in the matter of police expenditure we all

ave our critical eyes attracted to several items in the Budget, I think ny friend who moved this motion moved it with a certain amount of esitancy, and I therefore believe that he would be glad to have some nformation on the subject. As far as this particular section is concern-d, I find that in 1915 these premises were sold to the Calcutta Improve-nent Trust for the widening of the road, and I believe Government nust have got a certain amount of money from the Calcutta Improve-nent Trust. Therefore it is incumbent upon the Government, before hey moved the police from their present quarters, to provide them vith new quarters. Last year, I believe over Rs. 50,000 was spent for equisition of the land, and the amount in question is required for uilding a house for the Bhowanipur police section. In this connection, have also listened with great interest to the observation of my friend vho has criticised the outpost system. I do not wish to enter into ll those arguments in detail, but one thing I want to point out and hat is this: that the outpost system, if it has not proved quite so success-ul, ought not to be hurriedly abolished. What I find as a citizen of 'alcutta, and having more intimate knowledge of the city than my riend Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, is that there is a dearth of constables n the Calcutta Police, and the outpost although very useful s undermanned. We have got in our part of the town, the ward which I represent in the Calcutta Corporation, a couple of outposts, and I believe it is a great convenience to the public, ecause they are within easy reach, and people can immediately inform he officer in charge if a crime or any attempt at crime is perpetrated. But the only defect that I would like to state here is that there is prac-ically no patrol for want of a sufficient number of *pahrawallas* in the town. If the committee, which would be associated with the Hon'ble Member to consider the question of the police administration, will go in-to the matter, I hope they will recommend such a scheme as will improve the recruitment of *pahrawallas* in the lowest ranks of the service.

As regards the Bhowanipur section I do not think that, having regard to the fact that the Improvement Trust have acquired this site for the widening of the road and that Government have been paid the price of it, it will be fair to disallow this demand, because the police cannot move from that quarter unless and until a new quarter is found for them; and they will thereby be inconvenienced, and will block the im-provement of the site. I think, therefore, that having regard to this information and any further information which I hope the Hon'ble Member in charge of the department will be in a better position to vouchsafe to the Council, the mover will see his way not to press this motion.

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): I do not think it is necessary to extend the debate on these particular amendments into a general discussion into the merits

or demerits of the section system of the Calcutta police. It seems to me to be obvious that, if you want to have any form of police administration in a city with over a million inhabitants, you must have your headquarters in one place and your outlying subsidiary headquarters in others. That is the experience of even smaller towns in the mufassal; it is the experience of London, and, I take it, it is the experience of every big city in any civilised country. You cannot concentrate your police in one place, but you must have outlying centres, whether you call them sections, districts or anything else. This Bhowanipur outpost, I take it, is a police section in the south of the town, and as regards any information about it, I should have been equally pleased to give the facts to Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, as I have given them to Rai Bahadur Radha Charan Pal. The facts are, as the Rai Bahadur has said, that our old property, in which the police were housed in Bhowanipur was taken up by the Improvement Trust in 1915 in connection with the Russa Road improvement scheme; and in that year the provincial revenues were benefited by whatever price the Improvement Trust paid for it. Is it not natural that, in these circumstances, being dislodged, we should seek accommodation elsewhere? Owing to financial reasons, we have not been able to provide any accommodation at all, with the result that the police have already been driven from pillar to post three times since 1916, and are at present located in two hired houses, which is a very inconvenient arrangement. The project for the site was prepared in 1916, but in 1917 we hoped to get cheaper land and the scheme was changed again in the interests of economy; we took up the land last year, and in the ensuing year we wish to build. That is the object of the provision; it is merely in replacement of previous accommodation which the police once had but of which they were deprived by the operations of the Improvement Trust.

The motion was then put and lost.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA moved "that the demand for Rs 4,86,000 for acquisition of land required for the further extension of the new Calcutta police hospital at Bhowanipur be refused."

When I sent in my amendment, I could hardly guess that the very policemen for whom the extension of this hospital was required would come forward and support my amendment; but here, that is practically the case. Perhaps, it is not unknown to some members of this Council that only lately it was said in the papers that a petition had been sent to His Excellency the Governor by the police constables of this city mentioning some of their most urgent grievances and praying for redress. Among these grievances, I find that there is one about the system of being sent to hospital for mere indisposition. They mention in their petition, that they find it very hard that sometimes for an illness, which they consider to be no illness at all and for even mere indisposition, they are sent to hospital and kept there; that they have

to lose their pay for the days they are kept there; and that their stay in hospital is far from being according to their taste. Under these circumstances, I think that it would be wise to consider the system of this hospital treatment of policemen before we vote for anything for an increased expenditure.

Now, there is another matter concerned with this. I find that a new hospital has just been finished at Bhowanipur; and if my information is correct, the hospital is not yet occupied; but it will shortly be occupied. When estimates and proposals were made for the erection of this hospital, I gave this credit to Government, that they certainly knew how much space would be required, and how many patients they were going to have in this hospital for the next five years at any rate. It is not too much to ask Government to look ahead five years, but I now find that before this new hospital is occupied by any single patient at all, there is a proposal made before this Council by Government that a large sum of money (Rs. 4,86,000) is required for acquisition of other lands. In addition to that, if we do make this grant, next year I suppose we shall have a proposal for nearly Rs. 40 lakhs for the building of this extended hospital. I ask this Council—is this fair; is this wise; is this politic to go on at this rate of expenditure? I do not know how they—I mean those responsible for the scheme—could be so shortsighted as not to understand as to what their requirements would be as regards this hospital. From the nature of the case, it seems to me that the necessity is not so great.

Then I have been told that at Dallanda House some patients are now housed. I do not think that the Dallanda House is going out of the hands of the Government just now; so, there does not seem to be any reason for this extension. It is a simple matter and no enlightening speech is needed for recommending this amendment; so, I hope that the Council will consider it favourably and vote strong on it.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I support this motion——

The PRESIDENT: I ought to remind members that we have less than three hours left to bring to a close the discussion under this head; and as a large number of amendments remain to be discussed, I hope that members will speak as briefly as possible.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I may say that I have nothing further to add to what has already been said by my friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I do not like to repeat what has been said by my friends. This is a new hospital which is still being built and has not been occupied. It is a **T** shaped building, one portion of which is 256 feet long—I measured it this morning—and is about 62 feet wide; and the other part of it is 100 feet by 62 feet. It comes

to about 360 feet long in three storey, which means about 1,100 feet long. The whole police force number about 5,000, according to the statement made by the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler the other day, and if 5 per cent. is down on an average, it requires 250 beds; and we can very easily imagine what this house can contain. I mean to say that there is a limit to everything. Why ask for this unnecessary expenditure? You ought to have known your further requirements You now come up—as it appears from the resolutions—for Rs. 4,86,000 for acquisition of land for further extension of the Calcutta police hospital It seems that either your officers were all sleeping; or are thoroughly incompetent, because this grant seems to be absolutely ridiculous. If you were anticipating extensions, why did you not provide for it beforehand? You have got high executive officers—Superintending Engineers and others—and as soon as the house is finished, they come up with a demand for Rs, 4,86,000 for a further extension. What does it mean? Does it mean that these gentlemen did not bestow any attention on the matter? If that is not so, what is this demand for? You have just built a big house on about 68 bighas of land—the whole of the Jaltoonghee, which was one of the biggest gardens in the Bhowanipur side, and on which it is standing. Having built a three-storeyed house, which will be one of the biggest hospitals in Calcutta, and before anybody has occupied it, you come up now for nearly Rs. 5 lakhs for acquisition of land for further extension for a new Calcutta hospital, which means that another Rs 16 lakhs will be required for another extension. Is this the way we have got to spend everything for the police and is there no limit to this expenditure? This is the question I ask of those who are responsible. I certainly object to this and I hope that the Council will carry these resolutions.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I support this motion. The only thing which I would like to add is that, if a hospital be necessary for the police, by all means we must have it, but we must, in the first instance, be convinced of the necessity or the urgency about it. We have not heard that the present arrangement is not sufficient, or that it cannot accommodate all the patients, or that any hired accommodation has become necessary. In that view of the matter, it is not proper for us that any heavy expenditure should be incurred. Moreover, if for the acquisition of the land alone we spend such a heavy amount as is now asked for, it will be a very costly affair. So, we should consider the scheme carefully before we accord our sanction to it. In this view of the matter, I support the amendment.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I simply support this amendment.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I should like to know one thing. Am I to understand that this strip of land is the one between

Sambhu Nath Pandit Street and the Hospital, and what the area of the land is? I understand that this hospital is behind Sambhu Nath Pandit Street, and it is approached by a narrow passage from Sambhu Nath Pandit Street. If that is so, there is a strip of land a belt—between the hospital and Sambhunath Pandit Street. Why was that left out at the time when the scheme was prepared? Supposing that this is the building, that the portico is on the bare land, and that there is a strip of land on the south of this building; and if this is the bare land, on which the portico is standing and that was left out, I should like to know why it was left out. Certainly, there are responsible officers who prepared the plans and designs, and it seems very inconvenient to have left out this strip adjoining the hospital. I should like to know whether that is the case or not.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: This scheme is connected with the medical relief of the police in Calcutta, and in that light it is one of importance, since the good health of the police has a close bearing on their efficiency and popularity. I must say that I was somewhat surprised to hear the frank statement from Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta that he cannot see why, when we have a force of about over 5,000 men, we need make special arrangements for their medical attendance. In every up-country lines, there is a police hospital. What would the member have us do? If our police go sick—and unfortunately they go sick fairly often—what are we to do? Are we to leave them on the roadside and let them die; or are we to show ordinary humanity and try and nurse them back to health?

There has always been a police hospital in Calcutta—as the Calcutta members know—and it used to be in a straggling inconvenient building in Amherst Street, which had a long frontage of value for purposes other than for a hospital. Some two or three years ago we sold that frontage for Rs. 3,00,000, and by that sum the provincial revenues benefited. Naturally, having sold that frontage, we had to build a new hospital, pending which, as Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta seems to be aware, we have to push our sick men into a very uncomfortable and unsuitable house—the Dallanda House—which in the olden days used to be a lunatic asylum. The construction of a new building has been in hand for some time, and it is now nearing completion. A provision for its furniture and equipment appears in the Budget, and the main block is standing visible for all to see. But I can assure Babu Surendra Nath Mullick that the estimate of accommodation is based on our past experience of the number of beds which our force requires, and it has not been exaggerated merely for the pleasure of seeing spacious empty wards. After the main block was begun, the question arose about the lay-out of the subsidiary grounds. Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur says: "Why was it not foreseen at the time when the land was first acquired that more would be needed? I plead guilty to a certain

extent for having curtailed the original area in the hope of effecting economy. We hoped, by pushing the building back from a frontage on Sambhu Nath Pandit Street, to save money and to be able to crowd in our buildings in the space thus available. However, events falsified that hope and proved that we required more servants' quarters than had at first been anticipated, as well as quarters for sub-assistant surgeons and compounders. I was shown a lay-out, if the whole of these requirements were to be crowded on to the site. It meant erecting high servants' quarters which would have blotted out the air, and it meant putting them and the kitchens in most undesirable proximity to the infectious diseases' block. I therefore visited the spot in company with Major Sinha, the Police Surgeon, and, I think, with Surgeon-General Robinson and various other departmental heads; and we decided that it would be wise to take up this larger area, which measures 3 bighas and 14 cottahs, as against 12 cottahs which we shall be able to give up. On that land, we can make an effective lay-out, and I frankly admit that we have tried to put a decent hospital. We also wish to take up a small area for possible extensions. In so doing, I was influenced by the fact, which has been forcibly brought to my notice during the four years I have been in charge of the Medical Department here, of our folly in not looking a little ahead. The amount of money, which we have had to pay in the neighbourhood of the Medical College, Calcutta, in order to take up lands for extensions which later developments have shown to be required, would astonish the Council. Surely it is wiser, when the land in the neighbourhood is not fully developed, and, when we foresee with a reasonable amount of certainty that we shall require more land, to buy it before prices go up, rather than at a later stage, and at a greatly enhanced cost. As a matter of fact the need of utilising this extra land has already arisen. That is the history of the land. If these amendments are carried, it will render it impossible to have an efficient and satisfactory hospital for the police in that locality.

The motion was then put and a division taken, with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Ghatak, Rai Sahib Nilmani.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Mahendra Chandra Bahadur.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.

Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Raikat, Mr, Prasanna Deb.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur,
Ray, Babu Bhabendra Chandra.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr, Tarit Bhusan.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh
Roy, Raja Manilall Singh.
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.

NOES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhona.
Benerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr. C. H.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cochran, Mr. A.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
Donald, Mr. J.
Cordon, Mr. A. D.
Cupta, Mr. N. B.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Marr, Mr. A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-
Rhodes, Mr. C. W.
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.,
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Watson-Smyth, Mr. R. M.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 51 and the Noes 33, the motion was carried.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI moved "that the demand for Rs. 2,83,000 for acquisition of land for married sergeants of the Calcutta police be refused."

I move this reduction on the ground that I regard this as a luxury grant. Situated as we are, we can only afford to make this grant, when we conscientiously believe it is absolutely necessary for efficiency. I have not been convinced that this sum of Rs. 2,83,000 for acquisition of land for married sergeants of the Calcutta police is absolutely necessary. Of course, my sympathies, as a married man, naturally go out to them. Who is there that does not want to keep his wife and children in comfort, but one would like to do this at one's own expense and not at the expense of the general public. If we make this grant of Rs. 2,83,000 for acquisition of land, I think the Hon'ble Member will come to us next year and will want from us another Rs. 10,00,000 or Rs. 11,00,000 for buildings. I think there is a limit to everything and there must be a limit to police expenditure. In my Budget speech I began by saying that the police was swallowing up one-sixth of our entire total expenditure. Our total expenditure is about 12 crores of rupees and the police, apart from these grants, is swallowing up one-sixth, *i.e.* Rs. 1,90,00,000. Therefore, Sir, as I do not feel conscientiously that this is really necessary, I think it my duty to oppose this grant.

The PRESIDENT: This motion and the motions up to No. 217 are identical and I would therefore call upon those in whose names these other motions stand to speak if they wish to do so.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: To my mind it appears that the cost for the building would come up to Rs. 20,00,000 or Rs. 25,00,000, because we understand that the cost for the acquisition of land is to be Rs. 2,83,000. Now this is no doubt a very heavy sum, considering the accommodation for a dozen or two dozen officers. If it is necessary that the land is to be acquired, then in that case I do not understand why the land is to be acquired in the central part of Calcutta? Why cannot the land be acquired at a cheaper rate in the suburbs? If it be contended that the services of the sergeants, who are employed on traffic duty, cannot be easily availed of, unless they are provided with quarters in the central part of the town, my submission to the Council is that arrangements for conveyance may be made so that their services may be obtained at any time. Under such circumstances, it is for the Council to consider whether this large sum of money (Rs. 2,83,000), should be allowed for the purpose of the acquisition of land. I consider, Sir, that it is a very large sum and ought to be omitted. It is not necessary for me to speak at length, because the motions speak for themselves and I believe the time-limit is to be observed by every member.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I support the motion. My sympathies will no doubt, like that of Professor S. C. Mukherji, go with the married sergeants. But we are sorry we cannot afford to spend so large a sum this year and we must be in an affluent position before we can undertake any such scheme. We must also examine what amount will be ultimately necessary for this purpose; and unless and until this is done we cannot provide for this heavy item of expenditure.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I do not like to repeat what was said at the time of the Budget discussion when Sir Henry Wheeler said that if you do this these people will be very much contented. I doubt very much if that should be the ground for giving so much money —only that these people would be contented. I doubt if that is the proper view to take. On the contrary, if you give them this, then you necessarily bring discontent in some other section of the service and you create distinction. That is not proper. Apart from this, there is another matter. In Calcutta there are people—professional builders —who will build for you if you assure them 6 per cent. interest. I do not see any reason for incurring this cost. I do not think that in the present condition of our finances we should go in for such a big expenditure—Rs. 2,83,000 this year and probably something more next year, as we have seen in the case of the hospitals. So many lakhs for land

and then so many lakhs for buildings and then a further grant for improvement—and so it goes on. I therefore oppose the grant

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I would like to say just one word on this motion. Many items of business have already been referred to the Standing Committees that are to be formed They will have a lot of work to do but I hope this will not be a heavy addition This is a new item of expenditure on which this Council is asked to launch. We find that Rs. 2,83,000 is required for acquisition of land, and I think Rs 6,00,000 or Rs. 7,00,000 more will be necessary for building purposes. As it is a new matter altogether, I think this might easily be referred to the Police Standing Committee, as I have already said.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: You are probably aware that there is already a proposal to increase the pay of the European sergeants and a sum of Rs. 2,27,000 have been provided for this increase Having done that you want on the top of this another item of Rs 2,83,000 for acquisition of land. This is but the thin end of the wedge This means that you require at least another Rs. 7,00,000 or Rs. 8,00,000 for building houses on the land to be acquired. So you will have to incur at least Rs 10,00,000 for building quarters for these married sergeants My friend—Mr. S. C. Mukherji—said that there must be a limit to everything—even to the police expenditure. I think every word of that is true. We are not, as everybody is aware, flushed with money It is with difficulty that we are making two ends meet Let us see what we get from the Government of India, and then the Finance Member can come, if necessary, next year with proposals such as these but not this year.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: After what has been said on this motion I do not wish to detain this House longer But I want to know one fact, and it is this: I find from the Police Administration Report, recently published, that there are 151 sergeants in the Calcutta Police. May I know how many of them are married sergeants? Then the figure of the Indian constables comes to 4,896 May I also know how many of them are married, and whether any provision has been made for accommodating the married Indian constables in different parts of the town? Well, Sir, compare 151 with 4,896, or, in round figures, 5,000. This is the one information I want. Then there is another allotment of Rs. 20,000 for increased rent of the sergeants in the Calcutta Police. This is a charge which will be incurred in the ensuing year. The sum of Rs. 2,83,000, I believe—in fact it is stated is for the cost of land only. I do not know what the building will cost—the building will cost at least Rs. 1,00,000. If you take the number of married sergeants I should like to know what will be the cost per head. Then I find from the Police Administration Report that Government have to pay nearly Rs. 3,12,000 per annum on account of the rent of

different houses for the accommodation of police officers. Cannot these questions be considered together? I think the question ought to be tackled together and ought to be considered from a larger point of view, that is, whether we should not float a loan and get this work done by systematic progress year after year, so that we may ultimately save Rs. 3,12,000. This question may be fully discussed by the Police Committee which will be attached to the Department. Having regard to these facts, I do not see my way to vote for the grant of Rs. 2,83,000.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: I rise to support the motion. I do not know what inconvenience is felt by these sergeants, particularly as other officers of equal status and position are not supplied with quarters. We all know that other persons have got to live in rented houses, whether they are Government servants or men of independent means. I should like to know whether Government have been generous enough to provide quarters for their other servants on the same pay and of the same status. With these words I beg to support the motion.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I spoke on this subject in connection with the general Budget debate, and there is really little new that I can tell the Council about it. As, however, the old arguments have been brought out to-day, I take it that it is up to me to bring out the old replies.

I would, first of all, refer to the general argument, of which we have heard so much in connection with the expenditure on police, and I would like to bring to the notice of the Council what that argument is logically leading to. We have been told *ad nauseam* in connection with this police budget that the expenditure on the police is large, the province is poor, we have not got enough for the needs of education and sanitation and therefore this and that expenditure should be excised. Now, if that is the position which the Council desires to take up, what is the logical conclusion? I have endeavoured to point out, and have given figures in detail, that the expenditure which we have asked for in connection with the police is only a fraction of that which those who are responsible for the Department tell us is absolutely necessary, and only a fraction of what the local Government deem to be necessary. Therefore, the need for this large expenditure is conclusive, so far as we are concerned. Now, it is also certain that the resources of the province, as they stand at present, will never be sufficient to meet the large developments which we all want to see in various directions—education, sanitation, and in fact all along the administrative line. That is an admitted fact. It was admitted in the Joint Report, and anybody who takes the trouble to study the figures will realise the truth of it. Therefore, if we are to say that our resources are insufficient, if we are to accept the opinion of a member who spoke yesterday, that the mere thought of taxation will bring about a revolution in Bengal, then what is the result as regards the police? It must

be that the police will never get a pice in any budget. That is the logical conclusion to which this argument, as represented in this Council, is leading. It will always be possible to urge that the expenditure is heavy; it will always be possible to find other heads on which we might like to spend money, and therefore the logical deduction will always be to cut the police budget. The members who ask why cannot we wait till we have disposed of other important items, are not really urging postponement, but are putting forward the general contention that no further money is to be spent on the police, whatever the circumstances may be, or whatever the merits of the particular project may be.

Now, as regards this particular case. It is expensive, I admit, but it is in furtherance of a scheme which we have already begun. We have taken up about half the land, and the proposal is to take the remaining half. This is the only new scheme which we propose in connection with the present budget concerning the Calcutta police. When it was put to the Commissioner which, out of the long list of his demands (as it would be impossible to provide for all), did he consider the most important, he named this one. Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur asks "why can't we go out to the suburbs." The reason is that we must have the police headquarters in the centre of the town, and Lal Bazar is admirably suited for a headquarters. Unfortunately land in that vicinity is expensive, but I see no indication of the value of land there coming down. By dallying with this scheme we have already lost over a lakh of rupees. For the last three years we have been trying to push on with it. If it had been carried out in 1919, it would have cost us much less, Rs. 1,50,000; if it had been carried out in 1920, it would have cost us only Rs. two lakhs and three quarters, and now it is going to cost us Rs. 2,83,000. Therefore, in three years we have lost more than a lakh of rupees.

The scheme is for acquiring a site, upon which to erect quarters for 3 assistant commissioners, 8 inspectors and 12 sergeants. For these men we have to pay at present Rs. 2,250 as monthly house-rent, as these officers are entitled to free quarters, a fact which answers the argument of one member who said that when we have increased their pay, why should we give them houses also? I have mentioned before that whereas we used to pay Rs. 50 as house-rent for sergeants, we now have to pay Rs. 90, which accounts for the Rs. 20,000 of extra rent, for which there is provision in the Budget and which was referred to by Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur. I have also mentioned before that our rent bill is over Rs. 3,00,000 a year—a conclusive reason, to my mind, for not adopting the suggestion of Babu Surendra Nath Mullick that, instead of constructing quarters, we should rent still more houses.

To sum up. At present we have insufficient quarters for married men—I have not got the statistics of married men in the force with me, so cannot satisfy the curiosity of Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, but the element is important and appreciable. By erecting quarters we

concentrate the men at headquarters, and unless we erect quarters we cannot find suitable accommodation in the vicinity. This scheme, if carried through, will bring to an end a very unsatisfactory state of affairs, and it is considered by the Commissioner of Police as one of the most important reforms making for the efficiency of the force under his charge. I therefore submit that it was wise and prudent of us to make this provision.

A division was then taken, with the following result:—

AYES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Bose, Mr. S M.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das, Mr. S. R.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Chatak, Rai Sahib Nilmani.
Chose, Mr. D. C.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md Rafique Uddin.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mitra, Rai Mahendra Chandra Bahadur.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Ray, Babu Bhabendra Chandra.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr, Tarit Bhusan.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh.
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.

NOES.

Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr. C. H.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cochran, Mr. A.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
Donald, Mr. J.
Gordon, Mr. A. D.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Marr, Mr. A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-u
Robinson, Major-General W. H. B.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Watson-Smyth, Mr. R. M.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.

The Ayes being 57 and the Noes 29, the motion was carried.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: I confess I gave notice of my motion absolutely under a misapprehension. I shall be about the last person

to press a motion for the reduction of expenditure for medical relief. From the list it appeared that this item of expenditure was for the installation of electric lights, fans, etc., for the proposed Eye Hospital. My impression was that this hospital would be constructed this year, but I understand that it is actually in course of construction and therefore I beg to withdraw this motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

It was as follows: "That the demand for Rs. 65,000 for installation of electric lights and fans, lift, pump and transformer in the proposed Eye Hospital, Medical College, be refused."

Babu Surendra Nath Ray being absent, the motion that stood in his name was deemed to have been withdrawn.

It was as follows:—"That the demand for Rs. 5,000 for additions and alterations in the existing Nurses' Home, Medical College Calcutta, be refused."

The following motion was withdrawn:—

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand for Rs. 5,000 for additions and alterations in the existing Nurses' Home, Medical College, Calcutta, be refused."

Professor S. C. Mukherji being absent, the motion that stood in his name was deemed to have been withdrawn.

It was as follows:—"That the demand for Rs. 2,00,000 for the buildings for the Dacca University be refused."

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: The very afternoon when the debate on the Dacca University grant was going on in this Council Chamber the following resolution was passed unanimously by the citizens of Dacca:—"This meeting of the citizens of Dacca resolved that, considering all the circumstances, steps be taken to boycott the Dacca University proposed to be started soon."

The PRESIDENT: Are you going to withdraw your motion or to move it?

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY moved "that the demand for Rs. 2,00,000 for the buildings for the Dacca University be refused."

For a full detailed argument in favour of the reduction of the grant to the University of Dacca I would invite the attention of this Council to the two recent issues of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and the *Dacca Herald*. My principal reason in moving the resolution that stands in my name is that the circumstances which gave rise to the University of Dacca and the changed circumstances of to-day do not inspire me with confidence as to the stability and permanence of its existence. You are well aware that the University of Dacca was promised to the people of Eastern Bengal as a sort of consolation prize to keep them quiet.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: May I rise to a point of order? Is the member in order in addressing the House in regard to the question of the desirability of the University at Dacca?

The PRESIDENT: That question does not arise upon the present motion. The present question is whether the grant of Rs. 2,00,000 for the Dacca University buildings should be given or not.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: The University was founded as you are well aware on the foundation of broken promises and unredeemed pledges, of shattered hopes and golden dreams. If you look back to the past and take into consideration the present, if you remember the broken promises of yesterday and the new pledges of to-day, promises to the people of Eastern Bengal and pledges to the Muhammadan world, it would require the faith of a Wolsey and the trust of a Strafford for the people to place confidence in the promises and pledges of Princes, Prime Ministers, of Governors and Viceroys.

The PRESIDENT: As I have already said the whole question is about the grant of Rs. 2,00,000 for the buildings for the Dacca University. You are not in order in discussing the general question.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: I bow to your ruling. I am leading to that. If the circumstances of its birth fill me with apprehension as to the permanence of its existence, the changed circumstances of to-day equally give rise to misgivings. The message of the Mahatma——

The PRESIDENT: You are again drifting away from the point.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: My argument is this. I have no faith in the permanence of this University which is no doubt an ambitious scheme. I have seen many an expensive project and ambitious scheme like the Hastings House School being put forward which have vanished into thin air crushed by the weight of its extravagance. Where is the Hastings House School to-day? (Cries of "Order, Order.")

The PRESIDENT: You are again drifting away from the question.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: I know your power. I have no faith and therefore I say that the Dacca University——

The PRESIDENT: If you cannot confine yourself to the motion you are moving you must sit down.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: From the unsettling of the settled fact, from the ruins of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam the University of Dacca has inherited a group of noble buildings worth over a crore of rupees. With such a magnificent heritage, such a rich legacy to start with, why waste more money on brick and mortar? I consider that the grant of Rs. 2,00,000 for building luxurious dining halls for the advancement of epicurism is a sheer waste of public money. This is the substance of what I want to say.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: In proposing this amendment I must have to say that the conflict of interests between Hindus and Muhammadans that has been raised in Bengal generally——

The PRESIDENT: The question of the establishment of a university at Dacca has already been discussed and dealt with by the Council, and you cannot revive that discussion in connection with this motion. If you have anything to say about the grant for buildings for the Dacca University there is no objection

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: Already Rs. 9,00,000 have been given to the Dacca University and there are a large number of buildings. The Dacca University is a university in name, but this consists only of colleges, which are already established in the town of Dacca Therefore by creating the University or by giving it a very big name one cannot say that it is not a big college. There are the buildings of the Dacca College and the buildings of the Jagannath College and also in addition there are the houses, which were in possession of the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, which are now given for the accommodation of boys, who are reading in these colleges I beg to submit that this Rs 2,00,000 would be a waste of money, if we take into consideration the large expenditure upon buildings, which was incurred. Therefore I say that this Rs. 2,00,000 should be refused.

Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: I find Dr Suhrawardy and Maulvi Yakuinuddin Ahmed are at one in proposing that the grant of Rs 2,00,000 for buildings for the Dacca University should be cut down altogether. The object of establishing the Dacca University, as is well known to all of us, was to provide an improved kind of education——

The PRESIDENT: You are out of order I ruled the mover out of order, when he wanted to discuss the general question, and so I cannot allow you to discuss the general question.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: I rise to oppose the motion which has been moved by Dr. A Suhrawardy. I have listened to his arguments, and his arguments may be divided into two. The first part of the argument is that he has absolutely no faith in the permanence of this University, and to that my reply is that the matter has been set at rest by the previous motions and by the Act itself, so that the matter is not open to discussion now. The other part of the argument is that there are several buildings in Dacca, and no further buildings need be constructed for this University. I thought that the learned mover would give us some facts and figures, from which one could infer that there are these buildings in Dacca, which would usefully serve the purpose of the Dacca University, and he could not point out any particular building or any particular house, where this University could be usefully and successfully lodged. The framers of the scheme have come forward

with certain schemes. They want accommodation, and they have la out their scheme, and when the learned mover has not been able to poi out any particular building, which would serve the purpose, and whe his arguments are framed in the vaguest possible way, in generalities, is impossible to meet his arguments and when arguments are couche in generalities, we always know that they are guided more by sentiment than by anything else.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I only beg to point out th under the Act you have got to build three halls, and one of them is th Jagannath Hall, and, as this Rs. 2,00,000 I understand will be spent o buildings in connection with that hall, I do not think we can stop it

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (th Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): Since this motion has been brought for ward I think it only right to tell the Council very shortly why we wan this money. Mr. Surendra Nath Mullick has, to some extent, anti cipated me. The position is this: under the Dacca University Ac we must provide for at least three residential colleges and these are des cribed as halls. One of these three is the Jaggannath Hall Now it is ne cessary that the residential students of the Jaggannath Hall should have a place of residence, and this money is necessary for the building of tha hall. The work is under construction, and we hope to finish this building before the 1st July, when the Dacca University is going to be opened If the Council does not allow this grant then the University cannot be opened on the 1st July, and the grants, which have already been passed will be rendered useless. I do not think I need detain the House any longer.

The motion was then put and lost.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: Since I sent in this motion I have been satisfied as to the needs of the demand and I therefore beg permission to withdraw this motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn. It was as follows: "That the demand for Rs. 1,44,000 for the construction of bungalows for Civil Officers, Dacca, be refused."

An identical motion standing in the name of Dr. A. Suhrawardy was also withdrawn.

As Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur was absent, the motion standing in his name was deemed to have been withdrawn. It was as follows: "That the grant for the construction of educational buildings under head '41—Civil Works' be reduced to Rs. 5,11,000."

Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI moved "that the demand for Rs. 4,00,000 for the construction of the Secretariat Press building at Calcutta be refused."

[He spoke at length in Bengali in support of the motion.]

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I am very glad to learn that my esteemed friend, Babu Hem Chandra Bhattacharji, is going to take a special interest on behalf of the pressmen whom he represents in this Council; but I am sorry that I cannot but oppose the amendment which he has moved. I shall be very brief, as time is short. I will simply state to you, Mr. President, that not only land has been acquired, but that the building has already been constructed. I think more than half of the building has been constructed, and in the course of the next few months the construction of the building will be completed. So, my friend appears to me to be too late in making this suggestion before this Council. It has been stated by him that 99 per cent. of the pressmen will be affected by the removal of the press-house to Gopalnagar. He has stated to us that the people of Cossipore, Bally, Tollyganj and Sibpur comprise 90 per cent. of the pressmen. I am sorry, I question that I made a private enquiry, and I find that the pressmen come not only from the northern division of the town but also from the southern division of the town. So, by the removal of the press to Gopalnagar, it would be most convenient to the people coming from the southern part of the town. Then, again, it is stated that it would be most inconvenient to those men who come from the Eastern Bengal Railway stations. I beg to submit that on the contrary, it will be most convenient for them. They at present get down at Sealdah Station, which is at a great distance from Writers' Buildings, but now after the completion of the building they will get down at Kalighat Station on that railway, which is in close proximity to the proposed building It has been stated that Government is going to treat these pressmen as nothing but dogs. I question that. On the contrary it appears to me that Government is going to be more favourably disposed towards the poor pressmen. It has been alleged by him that the sanitary condition of Gopalnagar is not a good one. On the contrary I would say that it is as good as possible. The sanitary condition of this locality—the locality which is within the jurisdiction of the Calcutta Municipality is much better than the other parts of Calcutta, and especially after the removal of the huts which were in existence. On the contrary, I must congratulate the Government in having acquired this land, which consisted of a number of insanitary huts; and the owner of the land did not allow the erection of a substantial building—even a masonry building—on this site. That is one of the reasons why Government has been able to acquire this land at a very moderate rate, which I understand is not more than Rs. 1,000 per cotta, and I doubt whether the Government could have selected any better site from the pecuniary point of view or from any other point of view. It is bounded on three sides by roads It is in close proximity to a railway station and also to the line of the Calcutta Tramways Company. It may be said that there is no proper house accommodation. I question that. I know that there is a numbtr

of houses in Kidderpore, Kalighat, and Behala and I don't think that it will be a source of inconvenience to the pressmen. It has been said that there is no school in this locality. I question that. In close proximity to the site, there is a number of schools—Matriculation schools—not only in this locality but also in the neighbourhood—I mean Kalighat, Bhowanipur, as well as Kidderpore. The land has been acquired and the major portion of the building has already been constructed, and it seems to me that it is too late to re-open this question.

Mr. C. MORGAN: I move that the question be now put.

The PRESIDENT: I think it will be an infringement of the right of reasonable debate to close the debate before hearing what the Government Member has got to say.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Is there any rule by which you can only allow a Government Member to speak and not the other members?

The PRESIDENT: The matter is entirely one for me to decide.

Colonel A. J. PUCH: May I ask for a ruling as to whether a motion cannot be put before the Member in charge has replied?

The PRESIDENT: I think we must give both sides an opportunity of representing their views to the Council, otherwise one side will be placed at a disadvantage.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I think it will not be necessary for any other member to speak on this motion after hearing me. This morning, at the request of the Member in charge (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr), the Secretary Mr. Marr, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Norton, Superintendent of Government Printing, and myself went together and saw the site of the new Press building. It is admitted that the place is at a distance of nearly four miles from the present press premises in Writers' Buildings. Of these poor people, who have the misfortune of working in the press, some come from a distance of 10 to 12 miles; some from Sulkea, Uttarpara, Bally and Cossipore. A few of them no doubt come from Behala, Tollygunj and the neighbouring places, but the majority of them, as was admitted by Mr. Norton, come from distances of nearly 8 to 10 miles. It was at last settled—at least I suggested to the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr—that something should be done to convey these poor people to the new press building—either give them free tram passes or give them something extra to enable them to go by tram from Writers' Buildings, or from their houses. The Hon'ble Mr. Kerr was pleased to assure me that something would be done for these poor people. Some of these pressmen saw me to-day at the High Court. I told them that this

was the assurance, which had been given to me by the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr. I put that matter also to my friend, Babu Hem Chandra Bhattacharji, and it was settled that some of the pressmen, Babu Hem Chandra Bhattacharji and myself should form a deputation and wait upon Mr. Kerr on Thursday, and probably we might get a favourable reply from the side of Government. Under these circumstances I think my friend, Babu Hem Chandra Bhattacharji, considering the assurance given by the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr, would be too glad to withdraw his motion.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I have only one question to ask, if you will allow me. What about the provision for a Book Depôt? Am I to understand that the Book Depôt will be entirely removed to Chetla? If we want a book or a publication have we to run to Chetla? It will be very convenient for my friend, Babu Amulya Dhone Addy, but it will not be so to the majority of the members.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: At a previous meeting, it was said that there will be a branch Book Depôt somewhere in Writers' Buildings. Is that assurance to be carried out?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): I am sorry that I have to oppose the first resolution which has been moved by the representative of labour in this House, and I am still more sorry that my recent want of practice in Bengali has made it rather difficult for me to follow what he said. If he said that Government were treating these people like dogs, I submit to the Council that his language was not worthy of the representative of labour, and I trust that we shall hear no more of that kind of talk in this Council.

The PRESIDENT: He did not say that. He said that, even if we were to treat these men as dogs. I would have stopped the speaker had he said what you think he said.

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: Then I withdraw what I said. As to the rest of it, I gather that the two main objections to this building scheme are the difficulties of the press employees and the difficulties which will be experienced by the public. I will deal with the latter point which has been mentioned by Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur very briefly. The public will not be affected in the very slightest degree by the removal of the press to Chetla, as we will continue to stock Government publications in the Book Depôt at Writers Buildings, and members of this Council and others will be able to get books just as easily as hitherto.

As to the difficulties of the press employees, I admit that they cannot be brushed aside as altogether negligible, and I shall have to say something about that later on. But I do suggest that Government, like any other employer of labour, cannot allow itself to be dictated to

by its employees in regard to the site of its operations. I do not say that Government or any other employer should not listen to what its employees have got to say, and do its best to meet any inconvenience which may arise, but I do say in this case, as in other cases, the question of the site of the press must be decided from a wider aspect, and I propose to deal with the wider aspect before I consider the point about the grievances of employees.

The unsatisfactory and insanitary nature of the present press arrangements of the Government of Bengal have been notorious for many years. In the old days, when the activities of the Government were less than they are now and the demands made on the press were very much less the arrangement whereby the press was located in Writers' Buildings was perhaps not altogether unsuitable, but during the last ten years, with the growing expansion of Government activities and particularly the expansion of the work of the Legislative Council, the demand made upon the press have been so great that the accommodation in Writers' Buildings is entirely inadequate.

In 1916, the Surgeon-General, the Sanitary Commissioner and the Inspector of Factories inspected the press at Writers' Buildings. They said that light and ventilation were extremely defective, and were still farther impeded by a mass of printing press materials blocking up the verandahs and excluding the open air. The overcrowding was criminal and, to make matters worse, flaring gas jets were used instead of electric lights, thus still further heating and contaminating the foul atmosphere. The Surgeon-General went on to say : "I am quite certain that many cases of incipient phthisis will be discovered, which at present are spreading the infection." After we got that report, we tried to improve matters as far as we could. We put in electric lights and fans and we also improved the ventilation by means of electric exhaust fans. But the press is still in a thoroughly unsatisfactory condition, and anybody who goes there at this time of the year, and later on in the hot weather, will find that the whole atmosphere is extremely unpleasant. What it must be to work there for 9 or 10 hours a day I hardly like to think.

We have, as has been said, a branch press at Sealdah. The conditions there are, if anything, even worse. We have only got the ground floor of the building which has been temporarily lent to us by the Government of India, and what the Chief Inspector of Factories said was this: "In my opinion these buildings are quite unsuited for the purpose of a pass. The rooms are opened on one side only and, in consequence, it would be quite impossible to use the whole of the floor area without the use of artificial lights. The lights could be improved by means of reflectors, but owing to the numerous large brick pillars which support the upper structure, this would only slightly increase the floor area, and there is no natural ventilation." I think that from what I

have said it will be quite clear that it is necessary for us to move out of our existing press rooms in Writers' Buildings and in Sealdah not only in the interests of the work alone, but in the interests of the men themselves. We have accordingly been on the look-out for some time past for a new site for the press. We hoped at one time that we should get the Government of India press, but five or six years ago we were told definitely that their press was going to stop in Calcutta for a very long time and that we should not build our hopes on that. We then searched about for sites in Calcutta. We could not select any site near Writers' Buildings, as I need hardly say that they are too expensive for a hard up Government like ours. We then selected this site at Chetla and we acquired it for Rs. 2,94,000. We started building there two years ago. We have spent up to date over Rs. 5,00,000 on the buildings, which are now, as Babu Surendra Nath Ray has said, more than half completed. In addition, we have incurred liabilities for materials, which have been ordered by us or by the contractors, which amount probably to another two lakhs of rupees. That is to say, we have spent already, or we have committed ourselves to spending, Rs. 10,00,000 out of the Rs. 14 lakhs which this building is going to cost, and if, by a vote of this Council or otherwise, we were to suspend operations to-morrow, we should incur indefinite liabilities to the contractors and others, with whom we have made agreements for the completion of the work. So, I think the Council will agree with me that we have gone too far to stop this work, even if it were thought desirable to do so.

However, there remains the question of the inconvenience of the press employees to which the hon'ble member has referred. There are some 900 of these men. A certain number of them live in that part of the town at Behala, Kalighat, Kidderpore and Sibpur, and to them the construction of the press at Chetla will be a convenience, but the majority of the men do live in the northern part of the town, and for them, until they can arrange to take up their quarters near the press, there will be a certain amount of inconvenience in going to and from Chetla for their daily work. But after all let us see what this inconvenience really amounts to. I do not wish to be unsympathetic, but it is not an insurmountable inconvenience in any way. These men come daily now to Writers' Buildings or Sealdah mostly by tram, and, when the press goes to Chetla, they will have to continue their tram journey to that part of the town. It will perhaps cost them three or four annas extra a day in the matter of tram fare. I do not say that this is a negligible sum for men of the compositor class who are drawing Rs. 30 or Rs. 40 a month and perhaps less, but it is not a very large sum in the aggregate. The ultimate solution of the problem will be that the press employees will take up their quarters near the press at Chetla. The press will be there for a great number of years, say 50 years or more, and the men will very soon see that it will be to their own interests to live near their place of work. I have had a certain

amount of conflicting evidence on the amount of accommodation, which is available in that part of the town for these men, but there is plenty of land which has not been built over near the press, and it is pretty certain that the landlords in their own interests will put up buildings and let them out to the press employees at a reasonable rent; but in a matter of this kind we cannot expect the supply to anticipate the demand, and for some time after the new press is opened these men will no doubt suffer a certain amount of inconvenience. I want to say plainly what we are prepared to do to meet that inconvenience. Babu Surendra Nath Ray has implied that we have settled our course of action rather more definitely than is the case. This building is not going to be opened before next cold weather, and we have plenty of time to think this over. I have told Babu Surendra Nath Ray and Babu Hem Chandra Bhattacharji that I am quite willing to meet the men of the press and talk things over with them, and see if we can come to some arrangements for mitigating the inconveniences of those who will suffer, either by arranging some special means of transport, or by giving them a conveyance allowance, or in some other way. This, of course, would be purely a temporary arrangement. When the press is removed to Chetla it will be a permanent measure and then, if the men want to save themselves from inconvenience, they will have to go and take up their residence in that part of the town. We will do what we can to improve the accommodation available there. We know that the move will cause, as I have said, a certain amount of inconvenience, but I have no doubt that we will be able to deal with it in a satisfactory way.

To sum up very briefly. If we are allowed to go on with the press building and spend the balance of the money required upon it, we shall, within a few months, have one of the finest press buildings in India, where the men will carry out their work in convenient and sanitary surroundings. If the Council adopt this resolution and decline to allow us to go on with this work, we shall have spent Rs. 12,00,000 or more for absolutely nothing. Then we shall be thrown back on the present unsatisfactory and insanitary surroundings, in which the pressmen do their work, and we shall have to start all over again to find a substitute for the present building. That is the position which this resolution puts before the Council. If we abandon the scheme we shall have spent Rs. 12,00,000 for nothing at all, but, if we go on with the scheme and spend one or two lakhs more, we shall get a fine press building—that is the position before the Council. If the Council consider the matter in the proper aspect, I have no doubt what their decision will be.

Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI then asked for leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI moved "that the demand under sub-head 'Repairs' under head '41—Civil Works in charge of Public Works Department' be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

With reference to this motion, I did not bring it forward with any idea of dividing the House on this, but I should like to impress upon the Members of the Government that some details ought to be furnished for our information. We should not be asked to vote a grant blindly without any information. This motion, and the motion which follows it, have been brought forward for the same purpose. With these words, I beg to withdraw this motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The next motion, in the name of the same member, was also withdrawn. It was as follows: "That the demand under head 'Other items' under head '41—Civil Works in charge of Public Works Department' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

Mr. D. C. GHOSE received permission to withdraw the following motion: "That the demand under head '41B—Civil Works in charge of Public Works Department' be reduced by Rs. 20,94,000."

Item No. 117, which had been transferred for consideration at this stage, was withdrawn. It was as follows: "That the demand for Rs. 10,000 for revision of pay of electrical subordinates be reduced to Rs. 5,000."

The PRESIDENT: If there is no objection, I would like to have a ballot for resolutions for the meeting of the 1st April at 11 o'clock to-morrow. Although it is a holiday, I believe nobody will be inconvenienced thereby, as my information is that as a rule nobody attends these ballots. I would like to take the sense of the House about having a ballot to-morrow.

It was then agreed that a ballot should be taken on the next day, as suggested by the President.

Adjournment.

The Council adjourned till Thursday, the 24th instant, at 3 o'clock

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 24th March, 1921, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Executive Members, the Hon'ble the three Ministers and 88 nominated and elected members.

Oath of Allegiance.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. O'Kinealy made his oath of allegiance to the Crown.

Voting of Grants.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan) moved "that a demand of Rs 2,000 be voted by this Council as a grant under the head '42—Waterways and Embankments—In charge of Civil Officers' for the year 1921-22."

This sum is required on account of small establishment charges to look after the embankments and drainage works during the rainy season in the different districts under the District Magistrates.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN moved "that a demand of Rs. 31,50,000 be voted by this Council as a grant under the head '42—Waterways and Embankments—In charge of Public Works Officers' for the year 1921-22."

These are works which are all ordinary maintenance works and some of the important ones within these figures are in connection with the reconstruction of the Kidderpore Bridge and in connection with a lot of works, such as the protection of areas from the Damodar floods, the improvement of Hoorhora Khal, and excavation of Ghesaputi new outfall channel and the Sagorputul Baxi Bazar embankment.

The motion was put and agreed to.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr) moved "that a demand of Rs 41,45,000 be voted by this Council as a grant under the head '45—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions' for the year 1921-22."

These figures are compiled by the Accountant-General from the regis- of pensioners with the usual allowances for estimated casualites ing the year. We can safely accept these figures and I therefore mend this motion to the Council.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR moved "that a demand of Rs. 21,24,000 voted by this Council as a grant under the head '46 Stationery and nting' for the year 1921-22."

The estimates show an excess of Rs. 1,20,000 more than t year—due mainly to the expenditure of three-quarters of a lakh account of increased charges for stationery supplied by the central ies. I do not think that there is any other item which requires lanation. I commend this motion to the House.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR moved "that a demand of Rs 14,56,000 voted by this Council as a grant under the head '47-Miscellaous' for the year 1921-22."

This head comprises a large number of miscellaneous items as set th on page 146 of the revised Civil Estimates. The only item which s been called in question is that in connection with the grant to the ctoria Memorial buildings, regarding which there are two motions on paper. The only other item which requires any explanation from is the large amount shown under the non-voted head for revision of y of the ministerial establishment, etc. We have thought it best not put this item before the Council at present because the committee ich is dealing with the matter is still sitting. It has not yet been le to issue its report. When we receive its report, we shall work out proposals and place them before the Council, asking for a supplentary grant.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: After hearing the cirmstances which led to this grant of Rs. 2,50,000, I do not think I all move my motion, so, I beg leave to withdraw it.

It was as follows: "That the demand under head '47- Miscellaous' be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000 by reducing the grant towards the ctoria Memorial buildings from Rs. 2,50,000 to Rs. 50,000."

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I ought to state at the outset that yield to nobody in my respect for the revered memory of that univerlly respected Queen—Victoria. When sending this motion I was not vare of the fact that there was a deficit of about Rs. 17,00,000 and that e Trustees of the Victoria Memorial Fund had appealed to His Excelncy the Viceroy. I now understand that the Government of India have ovided Rs. 5,00,000 for this building and that the Indian Princes and

Chiefs have been appealed to to contribute to this memorial building. I have also been informed by Sir Henry Wheeler that the Government of India is willing to bear a good portion of the recurring charges. That will no doubt relieve the Bengal Government of a good portion of its annual expenditure, for I think this memorial building will cost not less than Rs. 50,000 per annum. Under these circumstances I think it proper that I should withdraw my motion.

It was as follows: "That the demand under head '47—Miscellaneous' be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000 by reducing the grant towards the Victoria Memorial buildings from Rs. 2,50,000 to Rs. 50,000."

The following motion was then put and agreed to: "That the sum of Rs. 14,56,000 be granted under the head '47—Miscellaneous.'"

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur) moved "that a demand of Rs. 9,000 be voted by this Council as the grant under the head '52—Miscellaneous Adjustments' for the year 1921-22."

This is a small sum which this Government pays to the Central Government for the premises 9, Hare Street, Calcutta. The premises have been leased for many years to the *Englishman* newspaper and this Government receives the monthly rent which may be said to balance the sum paid to the Central Government.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN moved "that a demand of Rs. 69,02,000 be voted by this Council as a grant under the head '57—Outlay on Waterways (in charge of Public Works Officers not charged to Revenue)' for the year 1921-22."

It will be noticed by this Council that there are several motions proposing to refuse this grant, and I think, therefore, that some words from me might shorten not only the discussion in this Council on the voting of this grant but also might, I hope, to a great extent influence the members of this Council as to what should be their attitude towards the motions. I understand that, in view of what I said in my general observations with regard to the Grand Trunk Canal project, certain members of this Council have come to the conclusion that all is not right with that project, and, what is further, they have not been satisfied with the statement, which I made on that day with regard to the estimates, and with regard to the figures, which I gave to this House, as to the amounts that are likely to come in when the work can be labelled as a productive work. When I mentioned that the estimates are likely to go up, I did so with a purpose. I mentioned this fact because it is the duty of every Member of Council to take the members

of this House into his confidence with regard to the actual position about a scheme, which is certainly not going to be a cheap one, and which is likely to cost the province a very large amount of money. I also thought that in view of the fact that under the present arrangements we are not likely to apply provincial funds for works of this nature but that we have to meet these works from loans, I should hint at that in my opening remarks. I shall not go to-day into the question as to what the revised estimates for this work are likely to come up to, for the simple reason that we have not ourselves as yet been able to work out these figures into the minutest details and I do not like to give the members of this Council a figure, which we ourselves may have to revise again. But I shall give as briefly as possible what the present position is.

The estimates sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India at present for the Grand Trunk Canal project come up to Rs. 309 lakhs, of which nearly Rs. 80 lakhs was estimated for the cost of three dredgers, calculating or basing our figures at Rs. 10 to the pound. Owing to the exchange of to-day, the estimate on dredgers alone will be Rs. 106 lakhs, even at the calculation of 1s. 6d. to the rupee, and if we were to calculate at 1s. 4d. or less, it would naturally become greater.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: How many dredgers?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: Three dredgers. Then again, as every member of this Council is aware, land values are still on the increase. Therefore, in revising our estimates, we shall have to consider revised valuations for lands, which we are likely to acquire, and alterations in railway alignments necessitated by the new alignment of the Grand Trunk Canal project as now proposed by Government. Then the costs of locks and bridges are also likely to increase, and, as I have already said, owing to the present rate of exchange, the cost of the dredgers alone has advanced by Rs. 27 lakhs. Now as I have mentioned and I may mention at the outset, this Rs. 69,02,000, which we have put in the Budget, is not going to be taken from revenue, but it is proposed to be taken from loans—Rs. 50 lakhs from the loan that is proposed to be taken from the Government of India, and Rs. 20 lakhs from the loan that the provincial Government propose to raise hereafter. Now in view of the fact that such schemes will in future have to be financed from loans, we have to consider in our department at what rate of interest we can get those loans, and, when we get those loans, we shall then have to revise our outlays and find out from what year actually the figure will be put in the Budget as productive. To do this, however, will take time, but there is no cause for alarm, or pessimism or to think that the work will not be productive. Government themselves, as I have said, propose to revise the estimates and reconsider the financial position when

Mr. Addams-Williams, who is well conversant with this work, returns, and to make him go into these estimates and the proposed bills of cost thoroughly. When he has done this I propose to lay the whole case before the Standing Committee, which will be attached to the Irrigation Department, for advice and consideration. Meanwhile it may be asked why the Council should be requested to vote Rs. 69,02,000 Well, my answer to that is that the Council's voting of this Rs. 69,02,000 does not necessarily mean that the Council, or for that matter the Government, are committing themselves largely to the project this year, for the simple reason that in the current year which will end on the 31st March, we are likely to spend something like Rs. 21 lakhs on this project, of which Rs. 13 and odd lakhs have been advance payment for the dredgers and Rs. 7 and odd lakhs for the payment for land, which we have already acquired, and which is now being brought under our control. Of the Rs. 69,02,000, which we have provided in the next year's Budget, and for which I am asking the Council's assent, Rs. 66 lakhs are for the dredgers, which are under contract, and from which we cannot get out, as we have to pay this year that amount. The rest is for compensation for lands already acquired and Rs. 69,000 is for the manufacture of bricks for which contract has been given. As a matter of fact it is more than likely that the Rs. 3 lakhs and odd, that I am calculating now for compensating those whose lands we have acquired, are an under-estimate, although for the present Government do not propose, until they have examined the question fully, to go into further land acquisition till the whole position is reviewed. The Council will, therefore, see that no one with any sense of responsibility in him either in this Council or outside could refuse the grant we have budgeted for, because, as I have said, it is a liability which the Government of Bengal have to meet. It is a liability for dredgers for which we have entered into contract, and for which we have got to find the money, for lands which we have practically acquired, and for which we have got to compensate people, who are leaving these lands. We have given out contracts for bricks to be manufactured to the tune of Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 60,000.

Naturally if this Council were to cut down this amount, Government would have to come to this Council again, and ask it to vote that amount, of which the contractors are certainly not going to make a present to this Council—that is the position in brief. As I have said, if in view of my explanation the members who have put down motions for refusing this grant were to withdraw them, then I would on behalf of the Government be prepared not to spend any further money on land acquisition or for bricks and mortar excepting what we must pay for dredgers and lands already acquired or bricks already ordered to be manufactured, and this I say because we have got ourselves to review the altered financial position. But in mentioning this, it must not be taken as an admission on the part of Government that the scheme is

no longer likely to be productive, or that the Government have no intention of proceeding with it any further. We can make no such promise for the following reasons:—

In the first place, Government have not come to the conclusion that the work is not likely to be productive, but Government have got to reconsider their whole financial position owing to the financial state of things to-day. Owing to the fact that in future we have got to finance these schemes from loans and not from provincial funds, what we have to consider, and consider carefully, is this: at what rate of interest we are likely to get these loans, as that will have an indirect effect on the rate of production. For all these reasons, I have already mentioned, I am quite prepared, if this Council would agree to vote this grant for me for the payment of the dredgers, for the payment of the lands which we have acquired, for the payment of the contractors to whom we have given contracts, not to proceed—as a matter of fact the members will see for themselves, Sir, that as far as the project itself is concerned we cannot really proceed—any further until we have ourselves considered the revised programme. But what I think it essential for this Council to remember is that not only have Government been convinced of the utility of this scheme, and of the great potentialities that it possesses for the commercial development of Calcutta with the Eastern Districts, but also the Chamber of Commerce and other strong commercial bodies have supported the scheme throughout. In consequence, Government cannot light-heartedly lay this scheme aside. But, as I said, after all a Member in charge of a department does not play with his own money—it is the public money—and as a Member of the Government it is my duty to lay my cards before the members of this House to consider. I have told them exactly what the position is. I appeal to the good sense of this Council to vote the grant which I have asked for.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA moved "that the demand for Rs. 69,02,000 for expenditure on the Grand Trunk Canal Scheme be refused."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I rise to a point of order. The amendment is quite the negative of the original proposal. Under these circumstances, can it be moved as an amendment?

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): Under the rules it is open to a member to move a motion that the demand be refused.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: At the outset I have to thank the Government and much more the Hon'ble Maharaja for the open way in which the facts have been stated by him to-day.

Regarding the points which I intended to raise, they are practically admitted by the Hon'ble Member in charge, and as a matter of fact,

on these admissions I rise to press my amendment to the acceptance of this Council. Well, the modified form in which the grant of this demand has been asked for by the Hon'ble Member is one, which either to-day or to-morrow, after the commitment of Government, we shall have to meet. I for myself am painfully aware of the after-effects of this sort of commitment. You, Sir, know very well, that on one occasion, against the unanimous protest of the public of Chittagong a certain water-works scheme was thrust down the unwilling throats of the people. We have been paying at the rate of 6 per cent. for our water-rate on a scheme, which has proved to be a failure, and the laymen's opinions have come to be true and now our water has been limited to only half an hour or one hour's duration! Well, that is the value I usually put on this sort of expert opinion. I thank the Hon'ble Maharaja that he has really kept an open mind, and that he really undertakes to put the revised estimates and project before this Council for discussion and will come up later on to this Council with a supplementary budget. I being a new member do not know what contracts have been entered into. It appears that the project has come through various stages through the proposed Behala alignment to the Maniktala alignment. It was first mooted in 1902 and formulated as a materialised project some time in 1916; after that it appears that the opinion of the public was never invited, and the public had no opportunity to discuss formally the *pros* and *cons* of this project, and I do not know how the sanction of the Secretary of State was obtained to this project, and also how the dredgers were contracted for, and land acquisition went on rather merrily.

One thing I have to complain of, and I do so on behalf of all the members of this Council, who have come here and have taken then oaths of allegiance to do their work loyally and dutifully, that we should be deprived of the information which we generally seek with a view to formulate opinions on a particular subject. With regard to this subject, I may tell you that question No. 60 of the 14th of August was intended to get some official information upon this project and the only answer received was that Government regrets that papers could not be laid on the table. We are now asked to vote a big amount of money for this Grand Trunk Canal project. I took the trouble of going and seeing if I could get any information. The officers were very courteous, I must candidly admit, but I could not get the final report, because it was considered confidential to one who had sent in a motion for the rejection of the demand, and who was prepared to be convinced if he found that there were reasons to the contrary! That being so, I bring this fact to your notice, Sir, and to the notice of the Council through you, not for the purpose of this particular item, but in order to regulate the conduct of the Government as well as to regulate the conduct of the councillors in future matters, whether we are to get all

the information we want in order to frame our judgment, and whether the reports of the engineer in charge regarding the Canal project will have to be also considered confidential, and we are to be deprived of the benefit and advantages of discussion.

That being so, I will not go into any question whether the project will be productive or not I would only draw the attention of the Council to the fact that even the Government admit that they are not quite sure of the financial soundness of starting this grand and gigantic project, and in the hope that we shall get an undertaking that we shall have an opportunity of discussing this matter later on, I shall reserve all my remarks for that occasion.

Now, Sir, I press this motion on the ground that if we really allow this motion as it is, perhaps at some time or other we may be considered to be technically committed to this project, in spite of the undertaking which we have got to-day. Therefore with a view to removing any misapprehension, that might turn up later on, I pray that the Council should accept this motion, and, if at the same time we may be given some sort of undertaking that if any supplementary budget is brought forward we shall have full information, we shall have no objection to it.

With these words, I press my motion.

The PRESIDENT: Items Nos. 241 to 244 are identical, and therefore will not be moved separately. I will call upon the members one after another to speak on their motions.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: First of all, I must join with my friend, Babu Annada Charan Dutta, in thanking the Maharajadhiraja for giving us some information on the subject. I purposely say, "some information," because there is, I think, additional information, which we should like to have, and I hope that in reply to this motion, he will be pleased to give us some more information on some of the points which I wish to place before this Council.

Now, the first thing, as Babu Annada Charan Dutta has pointed out, is that the latest papers in connection with this Grand Trunk Canal project have not been vouchsafed to us. I, however, tried to get some earlier papers and I accidentally came across a copy of Mr Addams Williams' report published in 1916. From a persual of this report, I find that, though this scheme has been hanging fire since 1902, in 1913 when Mr. Lees drew up a scheme for Rs. 273 lakhs, the reply of the Government of Bengal was, that the amount was too high and the scheme would not be productive on that basis of calculation. In 1916, another scheme was pepared by Mr. Addams Williams, when the estimate went down by Rs. 40 lakhs, that is, it came down to Rs. 253 lakhs, when by the same sort of magic, this scheme was found to be productive. In that scheme, Mr. Addams Williams calculated the rate of interest at 4 per cent. on that amount—calculating that rate of interest in

1916 when the war had been going on for two years! Now I ask this Council, whether it was fair to base our calculations on a rate of interest which was grossly out of proportion to the actual state of things. The rate of interest nowadays is more than 6 per cent. Surely, a scheme, which is going to cost us more than 4 crores of rupees in loans alone, ought to be fully considered, before we can think of suggesting a grant of money like this.

The Hon'ble Revenue Member has given us many assurances, but may I ask him to give us this assurance, that this scheme will be discussed on its merits by the Council, before it is taken up again? He has only said that the revised estimates will be placed before the Standing Committee. This scheme should be discussed in all its bearings, with the opinion of the Standing Committee, as well the opinion of the experts, before this Council, before we can, in any way, commit ourselves to it.

Then, Sir, I should like to get another piece of information. I find from Mr. Addams Williams' reports that he was strongly in favour of getting dredgers from Burma; he mentions the names of two dredgers and he said that he was against getting them from England. In view of that opinion, I would like to know why Government has placed orders in England at the expensive figure that has been placed before us.

Then, we have been told that this scheme is going to produce all sorts of benefits to this country. The first is, that it will bring Eastern Bengal nearer to Calcutta and then, somehow or other, it will help the development of industries all over the province. I do not know how it will do all this. We have also been told that it will be a very great sanitary improvement to this province. I think this ought to be considered by Dr. Bentley's department thoroughly well.

Then, we have been told that this is a very paying concern. In that case, I think the scheme ought to be placed before a business body, which in these days of joint-stock companies, will be glad to take it up as a highly paying concern. It seems to me that this Grand Trunk Canal project, which has been hanging fire for the last 20 years, is going to be a sort of conjurer's hat, out of which we are to get all sorts of benefits to the country. This sort of thing invites suspicion, so I should like to suggest that this Council should consider the scheme in all its aspects before granting this vote.

Then again, we are told that there is a proposal to borrow Rs. 20 lakhs for this scheme. Now, in the present financial condition of the province, I think it will be suicidal to try and raise a loan at this time of the year. I beg to suggest that, even if this resolution is not carried the Hon'ble Member will give us an assurance that this Rs. 20 lakhs will not be raised by loan, but will be met from some of the funds that this Council has been able to refuse during the last few days. So far as I have been able to calculate, I think nearly Rs. 50 lakhs has been refused,

and I think that out of his amount the sum of Rs. 20 lakhs can easily be provided.

With these words, I beg to support this motion.

Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: I must confess that I gave notice of this motion not without some amount of hesitation. My hesitancy was due to my sense of responsibility as a member of this House with regard to this item of the Budget, because we are apt to forget that we are not an administrative body, and we might not realise the difficulties of administration, and apply the pruning knife rather liberally. Besides that, as my friend Babu Annada Charan Dutta has said, we are not in possession of material which was essential before forming a sound opinion on the subject. As the Hon'ble Member in charge has assured this House that by granting this vote we are not going to commit ourselves in any way, and that when the Irrigation Committee is formed, he will give the members of that committee fuller opportunity to go into the details of the subject and come to a right understanding, I think this motion ought not to be pressed. Another point is that the Hon'ble Member in charge would have carried the House with him, if he had stated the terms of the contract into which the Government have entered. There is some doubt in my mind as to whether these terms are so binding upon the Government as to require immediate payment of the price of the dredgers and bucks, or that the payment could not be kept in abeyance for the time being. Not being in possession of the actual terms of the contract, I am not in a position to say whether the payment should be kept in abeyance or not, but in case the terms are so rigorous as to demand immediate payment, I think there is no other alternative than to withdraw the motion. But at all events, I do not know whether the Hon'ble Member in charge would enlighten us on this point, when he is replying to the questions now being put to him. I have no other alternative but to withdraw the motion, but at the same time I would like to make it known to the Member in charge, that we are not actually committing ourselves to the scheme, that we shall be at liberty to discuss it when an opportunity presents itself, and, if after examining details and going through papers, we find that the scheme is not productive, we will be at liberty to withdraw from it.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I would like to support my friends, Babu Annada Charan Dutta and Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, but, if what has been said by the Hon'ble Member in charge amounts to this, that the whole question will remain open; that by voting this Rs. 70 lakhs we shall not be committing ourselves hopelessly to the Grand Trunk Canal project, and that the Council will have an opportunity in future to re-examine and discuss the whole scheme and that it will be undertaken only if it is likely to be productive and beneficent project, then I would not like to press this motion. But, if I have misunderstood

the Hon'ble Member and he is not prepared to give us such an assurance, then I would like to support my friends, Babu Annada Charan Dutta and Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: After the assurance given by the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, I think it is not proper for us to press this motion. I am one of those who know something about this scheme from its very infancy, *i.e.*, since the year 1902, when this scheme was formulated by the Government of Bengal. At that time Sir Charles Stevenson-Moore was District Magistrate of the 24-Parganas and he asked for the opinion of the local bodies south of the Calcutta Municipality, and wanted to know if this scheme would be profitable and also advantageous to the people of the locality and the trading classes in particular.

Well, after several vicissitudes of fortune this scheme, I think, came into the hands, or rather was placed in the hands, of the steamer companies, and Captain Poynton was appointed to advise on the scheme. He was the General Manager of the India General Steam Navigation Company, and he and I went through the whole site from Garden Reach up to Kowrapukur and a scheme was formed to take the canal south of Behala from Garden Reach. Then, about the year 1913, Mr Lees was brought from Burma and especially deputed to give his opinion on this scheme. He also approved of the Behala scheme, that is, to take the canal from Garden Reach up to Kowrapukur and then, I think, to Bidyabari. But this scheme of Mr. Lees did not meet with approval of Mr. Addams Williams, who was especially deputed to consider the whole matter. Now we have a scheme to take it through the northern portion of Calcutta, namely, through Baranagore and Maniktala, thus depopulating a very large portion of thickly populated localities on the north of Calcutta. I think, if the scheme had been accepted, as suggested by Mr. Lees, the expense would have been much less, because it would have passed through lands which are not so very valuable. If it has to be taken through Baranagore, Cossipore-Chitpur and Manktala, it will cost a great deal more than the other scheme. The whole scheme will have to be threshed out anew. If the Hon'ble Maharaja will give us the assurance that he simply wants the money for the dredgers, and that the whole scheme will be considered by him and by the Irrigation Standing Committee,—well, my friend Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has asked that it should receive the sanction not only of the Irrigation Committee but that the whole matter should be placed before this House: I think this is a very good suggestion, and I think the Maharaja would have no objection to place the whole matter before the House for consideration,—we shall be only too glad to give him our opinion and to pass the grant, if it is considered necessary.

With regard to the cost of the scheme; well, it is said that the whole scheme would cost about 3 crores of rupees. The Maharaja has said in his Budget discussion that after 10 years it would yield an income of Rs. 22 lakhs, *i.e.*, in 10 years after the scheme is completed, it will yield 22 lakhs of rupees, 7·4 per cent. He has not taken into account the interest he would have to pay in the meantime, and which, if calculated, would, I think, give a profit of about 2 or 3 per cent. Are you going to launch into a scheme like this without going into the *pros* and *cons* of the whole question?

So, in these circumstances, I think the Hon'ble Member in charge, the Maharaja, will be pleased to give us the assurance that the matter will be placed before the whole House after its discussion with the Standing Committee.

With these words, I support the motion.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: The Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan has explained to the House that a sum of Rs. 69,02,000 would be required to be spent on the Grand Trunk Canal Scheme, and he has accordingly asked for our vote on that account. But the trend of the debate in the Council so far is against granting this demand, as the project is extravagant and unnecessary, at any rate for the present. If we refuse to pay, who will pay? It is a question which the Council will have to consider very carefully. Who will pay compensation money for the land which has been acquired? Again, there are the dredgers; you are bound to find money for them. We have to repudiate the purchase, unless money is provided for it. You know to what a bad plight Government will be put. Over and above this, we have the clear and unambiguous statement of the Maharajadhiraja, in which he assures us that the scheme will be further considered by the Standing Committee.

The suggestion has been made by my friend, Babu Annada Charan Dutta, that the whole scheme, after being considered by the Committee on Irrigation, will be discussed in all its bearings in this Council Chamber. I am of opinion that it is a very correct view of the matter. The Government ought to put the whole scheme before the House and take its considered opinion, especially with reference to its productivity, as a commercial venture. If the Government refuse to put the matter before the Council, every member of the House has a right to vote against it, and invite a discussion; and, therefore, I think, it is better not to hasten on with the project, but to wait for the expert opinion of the Standing Committee, before which the Hon'ble Member in charge of Revenue has assured us, that it will be placed.

With these words I oppose the motion.

Colonel A. J. PUCH: The general trend of opinion is, I think, in favour of this motion. As a matter of fact, speaking on the general

aspect of the scheme, I came to the Council with an open mind, because I expected to hear the question, whether the scheme is to go on or not, discussed. In my professional capacity, I have submitted a memorial to the Government of Bengal and the Government of India on behalf of over 1,400 inhabitants of Baranagore, protesting against this alignment. The memorial was not very sympathetically received and it has been turned down, as it is called, but, in spite of that, I was prepared to come to the Council with an open mind and vote in favour of the grant for the Grand Trunk Canal project, provided the mover, asking for the grant, was able to satisfy me on two points.

Now, we know that Government sometimes makes certain statements that are not perfectly clear, and are apt to be misconstrued. As I understand the Maharaja is going to put up this scheme before the Committee on Irrigation, and, after taking the advice of the Committee on Irrigation, Government will then apparently make up its mind as to what it should do. He has not definitely stated that this scheme is coming back to this Council for reconsideration. If the Maharaja will say in his reply that the whole scheme will come back to the Council for reconsideration, I personally will vote in favour of the grant he asks for.

If, on the other hand, he is not prepared to give that assurance, then I want to be assured on two points.

Those two points are; first, as regards the necessity of the scheme and second, as regards the benefit to public health. As regards the necessity of the scheme, I daresay you may have read the *Englishman* or the *Statesman*— possibly you do not read the *Statesman* nowadays— and you may have seen a letter from Mr. Cowley. If what Mr. Cowley says is true, it is a very serious proposition which is before the Council. What Mr. Cowley says is that several of the rivers in Bengal are now dying rivers, and that these rivers are dying in consequence of the acts of the raiyats and zamindars and local engineers. What he says has not been very complimentary to the Government of the country in the past 40 or 50 years. He also refers to the case of the rivers which have silted up, and he says that as the dying rivers run east to west they deprive the streams of the necessary scouring of the Saptamukhi and its tributaries, which themselves are also dying. It is only a matter of time when the effects of drainage will be unavailing and the water-borne traffic of Calcutta will be interrupted. Now, it seems to me Mr. Cowley has said that this is a matter of the most urgent importance, and I am somewhat surprised at the Government treating it in a light-hearted manner. Apparently, they thmeselves are extremely doubtful about the necessity of the scheme. What I would ask is: if we are not going to have another opportunity of discussing this matter, that Government will tell us whether there is any possibility of resuscitating these dying rivers? In other words, are they practically

dead? If they are practically dead, nothing could be done for them. In that case, of course, we have got to go on with the Grand Trunk Canal scheme as quickly and as expeditiously as possible, always provided that in so doing we shall not injure the public health of the province. Most of us know what these railway embankments have done and how they have injured the natural drainage of the country by putting up bunds and embankments all over the place: that is the real reason why there is so much malaria; and what I want myself to be satisfied about is whether this Grand Trunk Canal with its embankments and sluices will not interfere with the natural drainage of the country and make public health worse than it is at present. If—as I understand the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur to say—the engineers of the Public Works Department are going to consult the Irrigation Department and the Officer in charge of the Sanitary Department of the Government, the Sanitary Commissioner, and, if they all approve of the scheme and vote in favour of it, then I think that the scheme ought to be proceeded with with as little delay as possible

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: Speaker after speaker, and, last of all, Colonel Pugh, has asked the Hon'ble Member in charge of Irrigation to answer the simple question whether the entire project should be placed before the Council for sanction; but no reply has been given. I have therefore no option left to me but to support the amendment. I do so after much thought and after consulting many persons whose opinions I respect Sir, this Council has done hitherto nothing in a hurry. It must have been observed that 156 amendments to the Budget have been negatived or withdrawn; these amendments, if carried, would have made the administration impossible. My humble self and the majority of the members have co-operated with the Government to the best of their power. We have only made a reduction of about Rs. 30,00,000 in the police grant— —

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Is the member in order in harping on the police grant?

The PRESIDENT: I do not think that he is out of order.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: But I may give this assurance that, if the Government after consulting the committee which we shall elect—a committee in which I shall try my best that the very best men of our body should be elected—recomended further expenditure indispensable, we shall certainly give effect to the recommendations if a supplementary grant is asked for. We are in no unreasonable mood of mind. We have struck off the grant for the Chief Justice's house: we have done it with very great regret; and I may say that in all other matters we supported the Government. In this matter I am afraid we cannot support the Government. It is a question of Rs. 69.00,000, and the passing of this project will cripple the finances

of Bengal for at least 20 years. Sanitation, education, medical relief, will be at a standstill. The estimate is for Rs. 3,50,00,000; it may go up to Rs. 10,00,00,000. We have been given broad hints that it will be necessary to tax the poor people of Bengal; they are not able to bear it and I say it will lead to disaster. I oppose this scheme with keen regret. Few members here know the part I took in the scheme, when it was first conceived. Mr. Lees, the eminent engineer, was brought to elaborate the scheme. The scheme then passed through the southern suburbs. It was a scheme so grand that it excited the admiration of everybody—it excited my admiration at least. After Mr Lees left, the battle of the engineers began. The subordinate of Mr Lees, who should have loyally carried out the scheme, tore it to pieces, and for 16 years this matter has not been carried out; the fault lies not with us but with other people; and these 16 years were momentous years. It has changed the fate of the world; great European countries have become bankrupt and India is in a very bad way Prices have risen three-fold. The prices of land have risen eight-fold. Then there is the exchange. It is a very grave risk now to do anything by which it may be said that we sanctioned the project. I am not prepared to take the risk. Notwithstanding all this if I were satisfied that the scheme was very costly I might have supported it because of the grandeur of the scheme; but there were many defects in it. The first defect is that it may impede the drainage of half of Bengal. A canal with locks at two ends means a great impediment to the natural drainage of the land. It is worse than railway embankments with their innumerable culverts and openings. A canal with two locks at two sides cannot allow water to flow into it. Thus half of Bengal would be water-logged We know how healthy Punjab and Shahabad were, and now they have become very malarious; but they have got this advantage there, that the lands, which yielded nothing before now produce bumper crops. But here in Bengal what advantage can we get with our natural drainage thus impeded? It will not add to the fertility of the soil This is my first ground.

My second ground is this; the cost now estimated is Rs. 3,50,00,000 Whatever anybody might say, we know how the estimates in actual working are always exceeded. In this case we all expect that it will not be less than Rs. 10,00,00,000, or at least in any case not less than Rs. 6,00,00,000 or Rs. 7,00,00,000. Are we able to pay this amount? We are not. No prudent householder would incur this risk; and why should the Government take this risk? It is undoubtedly a risk in any case.

We are told about the dredgers. If I remember aright even in this single matter of dredgers, Mr. Lees' estimate, was Rs. 15,00,000, now it is Rs. 1,20,00,000—eight times the original estimate; the dredgers have not been purchased; they have been agreed upon to be purchased. We want to know how the agreement stands. Government

ought to come forward to us in a straightforward manner, as is done in every business house. They ought to come forward and show us the agreement and say: "Here is the agreement, here are the terms; you pass the amount." But they have not come to us in this fashion. They say: "We do not know what the scheme may ultimately cost, but pass this item as a part of the scheme." I suppose no business-house or any zamindar would approve of this course. Let us have a straightforward businesslike way of doing things. Bring the Rs. 6,00,000 or 7,00,000 and show it as a separate item, not as part of the scheme, and say: "We want this money," and we shall never be so unreasonable as not to pass it. But why should we at all pass it without looking into the agreement; that is not businesslike.

Now, I have another objection. We are required to raise a loan. I for my part shall always vote against any loan or new tax that may be proposed here. As long as I am here I should like to cut our coat according to our means. No loans here; why should Government go into loans? If we strike out Rs. 69,00,000 we shall decrease our deficit by about half, and thereby Bengal, instead of being bankrupt, will be solvent, and we shall be able to pay for our doctors, for our *gurus*, and for our village roads and tanks and other needs which are urgent, and for which I shall put motions as soon as I can. Now, Sir, I shall never support a loan nor a tax, come what may; and however much my actions may be misconstrued, I shall never do it.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I rise to say a few words in support of the Grand Trunk Canal scheme, and to oppose the amendment of my friend, Babu Annada Charan Dutta. I am surprised to hear Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur oppose this scheme mainly on the ground that it will cost so large a sum as nearly Rs. 70,00,000, and, if I have understood him rightly, his point is that if this item is cut out Bengal, instead of being insolvent, will be solvent and that will enable him to pay his doctors, *gurus* and *purohits* and others. That may be an impressive argument to him, but it does not appeal to me at all. If the Grand Trunk Canal scheme is bad, it does not matter whether it costs 1 lakh or 1 thousand, we must cut it out. If it is a good scheme—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I rise to a point of order. After what the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur has said, I think that the scheme will have to be revised and the financial position reconsidered. In any case, the scheme is not before us.

The PRESIDENT: I think the Rai Bahadur is in order.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: What I say is that this scheme should be judged on its merits and not merely from the financial aspect of it. Apart from the financial aspect of the question, I fail to realise why there should be any opposition from the members hailing from Eastern Bengal. I take it that the proposed canal will connect Eastern

Bengal more directly and more closely with Western Bengal; and, as such, I expected that my friends from Eastern Bengal would co-operate with us coming from Western Bengal in having such a scheme easily carried out. It has been said by my friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, that he failed to understand how it would help industries, and how it would help sanitation. I am sorry for him, and I must say that, if he has read the report, he must have seen that around this canal all the different industries would cluster. I have read this scheme and I find that it contains a proposal that on both sides of the canal different industries in which Eastern Bengal is particularly interested, will be brought together. And as for sanitation, I believe that my friend has not realised that the opening out of the canal will reclaim a very large area of land close to our city and will materially change the aspect of that portion. The Maniktala Municipal area will improve to such extent that the difference between Maniktala and Calcutta will disappear, and the result will be that Calcutta will have an extension to the north-eastern corner. For the last 10 or 12 years, we, the members of the Calcutta Corporation, and the people of Calcutta, have been anxiously expecting some ripe scheme for the extension of the city. This is a scheme which will meet their views. Calcutta must expand; otherwise, the overcrowding that is going on will kill the city in the long run. This scheme of the Grand Trunk Canal near about Maniktala will connect that portion with the city proper, and will open up a very large area, where the trade from Burra Bazar and other places will be diverted, and this will materially help in the sanitation of the city. The as the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur has already pointed out, Government have already taken action for land acquisition. I think that very few of us have lands in that locality. I have none; so I have no axe to grind. May I enquire, who have lands there and how long those who have already received notice of acquisition, are to wait? They have been anxiously waiting for the disposal of the land acquisition cases. Is it fair that we should hold them up indefinitely.

Much has been said as to whether the scheme would be paying or not. If we have to borrow at the rate of 6½ per cent. now, certainly the expenses of the scheme will be increased. But the increased expenditure will justify an increased charge, and the increased charge will bring in a larger amount of revenue.

The Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan has already pointed out that the Government of Bengal have already incurred liabilities for dredgers, for land and for bricks. Are we to understand that by withholding our sanction to this expenditure, we shall put the Government to difficulty purposely? Perhaps, eventually, we shall have to sanction a larger amount. This is what has struck me; and I think it would be only proper that, forgetting that the people of Calcutta are directly concerned and that they are likely to be much benefited by the scheme and all such personal considerations members will look at the

public aspect of the whole thing, and that, if they think that the Grand Trunk Canal is likely to be quite beneficial to the country—they will vote against this amendment.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: Before I support or rather express my opinion on this subject, may I ask whether there is any likelihood of postponing the consideration of this item till the next session? If it is not to be postponed, then I would support the amendment moved by Babu Annada Charan Dutta. When the original scheme was placed before the Corporation of Calcutta as well as the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, so far as I remember, all these public bodies opposed it. They expressed their opinion—if I am not mistaken—that this scheme would not be a productive one. At that time, the estimated cost was about one crore of rupees. We now find that the estimated cost is Rs. 3,09,00,000; and I am of opinion that the actual cost would be more than that. It has already been admitted by the Hon'ble Member in charge that the market-value of lands has materially gone up and the market-value of dredgers as well as other articles has also gone up, especially because of the unusual fall of the rate of exchange.

As regards the income, it is stated that the income would be more than Rs. 22,00,000. I beg to submit that having regard to the fact of the competition with country boats and especially with the railways connecting Calcutta with Eastern Bengal, the actual income will be materially less than the estimated income. Assuming that the estimate of the scheme be a correct one and that the estimate of the income be a correct one, I beg to submit that even if the work be financed by a loan, it will not be a productive one. When this scheme was recommended by the Government of Bengal, it was not approved by the Government of India, though the rate of interest on Government Promissory Notes was then only 4 per cent. Now, it has gone up to 6 per cent. exclusive of income-tax or practically 6½ per cent. Some consideration should be made for the contribution towards the sinking fund, which may be taken at 1½ per cent. The total income, after meeting the interest charges as well as the contribution to the sinking fund, would be 8 per cent. per annum. But assuming that the estimated cost is correct we have been told that the income-tax would be 7·4 per cent. even on this assumption, Government will have to suffer a loss.

As regards the estimate of cost, as an old member of the Calcutta Corporation, I may say that we have had a sad experience in the case of the Talla Reservoir—if I may be allowed to mention it; when the original scheme was placed before the Corporation, the original estimate was 70 lakhs of rupees, and we were assured that the pressure of filtered water in every part of Calcutta would be 40 feet. Now, we find that there are some parts of Calcutta where the pressure of filtered water is only 8 feet; and that we have committed ourselves to a scheme which will cost about 3 crores of rupees.

We have had also a sad experience in the case of the construction of the public buildings at Delhi. At first we were told that the capital expenditure would amount to 6 crores of rupees. Now we all know that the actual expenditure would be about double that amount. The amendment is that the demand for expenditure on the Grand Trunk Canal Scheme be refused. Sir, if we are to commit ourselves to this scheme at this stage, certainly we should support the amendment. But if we are called upon to sanction the amount for the purchase of dredgers or for the acquisition of land which has already been acquired, then, Sir, I have no objection.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: May I explain one thing? I think I said that, even if the Government did desire to go on with the Grand Trunk Canal project, the amount which we were asking the Council to vote could not be devoted to the Grand Trunk Canal project this year, but would only go towards payment for the dredgers and for the land already acquired. Therefore, I think that those gentlemen, who are criticising the Canal project generally, would perhaps, for their own sake, reserve their arguments for a future occasion. What I said was this: that this money would be spent on dredgers and for the land already acquired. Once more I repeat this fact, as it is inconsistent with the discussion that we are having.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: We have been informed that this scheme would be placed before a committee, but the Committee on Waterways is nothing but an Advisory Board and the Government is not bound to accept its recommendations. If I am assured that the recommendations of this Committee would be placed before this Council and that the decision of the Council would be final, in that case I shall be glad to support the grant; otherwise I shall be under the painful necessity of supporting the amendment of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I find two of my esteemed friends, Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur and Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, are on opposite sides; and when two Rai Bahadurs fall out, there is no chance for a poor man like myself. What I think is that, after the statement that has been made by the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, I am disposed to think that, what he means—though he is cautious in his statement—is this, that we shall be given a chance of discussing the whole scheme again on its merits on the new figures and facts, which the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan will place before us in August next with liberty to us of receding from our present position, that is to say, with liberty to us of rejecting the whole scheme. If this is so—and the second thing, that he has said is that he is willing to stop further acquisition of land, which I take to mean an evidence of the intention on the part of Government to respect our feelings—then, but not till then, an

I prepared to support this grant. If Rs. 69,00,000, that is wanted for the dredgers, is wanted for the dredgers alone, then by merely voting for them we do not necessarily commit ourselves to this big scheme which some people say would cost crores of rupees, some say would create insanitary conditions, and some say would prove to be a healthy scheme; but upon which I am not entitled to pass any opinion. What have lawyers or merchants to do in this matter. If opinions are to be had, they must be had from persons who know all about it, and must come in the form of a report. My position, therefore, is this: that, if I am right in my assumption that the whole thing will be placed before us over again for discussion with the power of rejecting it, if we think that the scheme deserves to be rejected after a thorough consideration of the new facts and figures that will be placed before us, then I at once support the grant. [A voice: "But you are repeating it again."] I think that this part of my statement is so important that it would bear repetition ten times. I do not think that I have anything more to say, except this, that I am thankful to the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan for his taking us into his confidence and I cannot help thinking that if other Hon'ble Members would only condescend to take us into their confidence in the same way as the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur has done, then much of the trouble which they think that we give them would not arise at all.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: I join with the hon'ble members who preceded me in thanking the Hon'ble Member in charge for taking us into his confidence and giving us sufficient information to enable us to arrive at a conclusion. My friend—Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta said that the information supplied by the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur was not ample enough, but, to my mind, it was sufficient enough to bring us to the conclusion—to the one conclusion and that is this, that this project could not be supported and it must be supposed to be dead. Sir, one question has been raised by the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, and that is about the liabilities that have already been incurred with respect to this matter. On that there is no doubt that every member of this Council should think it a point of honour to pay every farthing and to see that no further litigation or things like that arise in future. The big item is the item of dredgers, which will cost us a lot of money, but I may assure the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur that the dredgers will be very useful in the province, and I hope in this connection you will remember the sacred Bhaghirati, which is sacred to the Hindus, and I may say also to the Muhammadans, who derive health and vigour from its water; and these dredgers may be of immense help to the people living on the banks of that river. Now, Sir, when we look into the question of liability we also think of another thing, viz., whether we should accept the proposal of the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur, to the effect that the demand should be granted, or we should accept the amendment of Babu Indu

Bhushan Dutta and others, to the effect that it should be rejected, and that a supplementary Budget may be prepared and necessary expenses granted by us later on. In order to decide this question I think, instead of considering any matter, we may look into the resolution itself. The resolution says that we should make this grant for the purpose of carrying on the project, but, Sir, we find that the money, which we are going to give, is not for the purpose of carrying on the project, but for the purpose of meeting the liabilities already incurred. So, under the circumstances, one would naturally like to reject the resolution, and support the amendment, and ask the Hon'ble Member in charge to bring in a further requisition. But we need not insist on this, and, if we find that the Hon'ble Member in charge insists on asking us to make this grant this year for the purpose of paying those liabilities, I will not very much object to that.

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: I think that some of these misapprehensions, which have arisen in regard to our undertakings in connection with this matter, are due to an imperfect reading of the Devolution Rules. The Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur has told the Council that this Rs. 69,00,000 is wanted, first, for certain dredgers, which are already under construction in England, and, secondly, for certain land which has already been acquired, and, thirdly, for some bricks, which have already been ordered. Some hon'ble members seem to say that this is all very well, but how do we know that you will spend Rs. 69,00,000 on these three things and that you will not spend a lot more on the Grand Trunk Canal Scheme and commit us hopelessly on the subject. I may say that it is not possible for the Irrigation Department to take action of that kind. This amount of Rs. 69,00,000 is the only grant under the major head "57—Outlay on water-works," and the Irrigation Department cannot spend an anna over this Rs. 69,00,000 without coming back to this Council and asking for a vote either this year or next year. That, I think, is a sufficient answer to some of the members who have expressed doubts in the course of discussion.

Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: I move that the question be now put.

The PRESIDENT: There are one or two speakers more and then I will put the question.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I wish to say only a few words. In the first place I wish to thank the Hon'ble mover for having moved the motion which stands in his name.

Looking into the Budget, I find it has been stated that the Grand Trunk Canal project being a productive irrigation work, involves a very large capital outlay, and so it has been decided to finance it by a loan from the Government of India, and so forth. As a plain simple man

I must say that it would appear to any one reading this report on the Budget estimates, that this is a productive scheme, and therefore it would be to the interest of the people to vote for this money. The motion has elicited a reply from the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, that he does not think, or rather he is not in a position to assure the Council, that it is a productive scheme By a productive scheme I mean that at least the money, which will have to be paid by way of interest and sinking fund charges, will be recovered from the income of this productive work. The Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan to whom I am very much indebted for the frank information that he has given us, says that he cannot assure us definitely on this point. It may be less. The matter will have to be fully considered Such being our position, I think the Hon'ble members, who have moved this motion, deserve our thanks, because the misconception, which has been raised in our mind with regard to this, is now altogether removed.

As regards the estimate of Rs. 69,00,000, it has been freely and frankly explained what the position really is You may blame the Government as much as you can, but the expenditure has been incurred, the three dredgers have been ordered from England, and are estimated to cost a large sum. It is not only Rs 69,00,000 that you will have to vote—you will have to vote a certain additional sum. Then certain lands have been acquired for which Rs 75,000 will have to be paid. A contract has been entered into for the manufacture of bricks, and a sum of Rs. 66,000 will have to be paid for the purpose From a practical point of view we will have to make good the expenditure; it does not matter much whether the same has been incurred rightly or wrongly. We will have to make it good The Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur has assured us that the whole matter will be placed before the Council, and has frankly admitted that he is not going to pay from his own zamindari. The liabilities have already been incurred with respect to this Grand Trunk Canal project, and we have got to meet them. I think, therefore, we will do well if we vote for this money. Another question, and that is this. I do not think, having some experience of the practical way of dealing with these things, that it would be a dead loss to the people of this country, a dead loss to the Government or to the public exchequer. The sanitary and financial aspect of the question will have to be discussed over again in this House in this connection, and I am quite sure that from the sanitary and financial point of view it would be a sound scheme. If the scheme is not carried out, the expenses can be recouped. Even if the dredgers are brought from England then, I think, they can be very usefully employed in re-excavating some of the silted-up rivers in Eastern Bengal and other places and, Sir, I for one can give a guarantee not only as a member of this Council, but as a member of the Improvement Trust that, if you make over the lands to us, we would

know how to deal with them. As regards bricks, not only myself but also a dozen other persons will barter for the bricks. So there will be no apprehension of any loss to the public exchequer on this account. Therefore we shall vote for the grant, and I am glad that the assurance that the scheme will be further examined by the Council has been obtained, which would not have been obtained but for the motion of my friend.

Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: There is absolutely nothing left for me to say. I only trust that the House will not vote for the amendment, but will vote for the original motion.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: A friend once asked Bismarck why he was not believed, and Bismarck's reply was: "Because I always speak the truth." What I tried to explain to the Council to-day was the truth, but there was such lurking suspicion in the minds of some of the hon'ble members that they thought that I had got something hidden in my pockets. I do not propose to go into the question at very great length, because what little I have to add will not only supplement what I have already said, but some speakers in opposing my motion have really assisted me in supporting it.

First of all, I shall deal with my friend from Chittagong. I did not know, when I met him at Chittagong last rains, that we should have the pleasure of meeting here in this Council Chamber. I can well understand his reasons why he looks with suspicion to this project, and I have no quarrel with him on that score. What, however, I should like to point out is this, that public bodies were consulted in 1917 and Government have their opinions with them. As regards Mr. Addams-Williams' report being kept confidential, I may say that the Secretariat have a way of giving away these reports, even if the Department did not desire that they should be made public. The report on which Babu Annada Charan Dutta was laying so much stress, and about which he was accusing Government of having kept it confidential, is now used as a pillow for resting Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's left arm upon. That is the report in question. The cat has been let out of the bag so far as the report is concerned. The reason, however, why Government keep such reports confidential is simply this, that in matters of a technical nature, where experts put in their estimates according to their views, Government do not think it proper to make those figures public for the simple reason that they may not be perfectly accurate. They may have to be revised, they may have to be reconsidered, and it is not right and proper that the public should base their faith on figures which Government themselves may have to reconsider before putting them forward. That is really the secret why certain of these reports are kept back and treated as confidential. Then, again, it is well known that engineers, like all experts, like to criticise others who

have submitted their projects before them. That may be another reason why they are not published, because it is not right for the public to see one Government officer criticising another. Beyond that there is nothing in this report to be kept confidential, excepting that such reports are generally treated as confidential.

Now, as regards Babu Annada Charan Dutta's desire to press for his amendment, I myself would have sympathised with him, if I, on behalf of Government, had pressed for Rs. 69,00,000 for large works in the way of construction or in the way of actually proceeding with the Grand Trunk Canal scheme. If Babu Annada Charan Dutta were to press for his motion or Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta were to do the same, what would be the effect. As for the gentlemen of this Council defeating the Government, when they are in a majority, it is a foregone conclusion, but it is up to them to consider, when they do try to defeat the Government, whether any useful purpose either to them or to Government would be served by so doing. Here we have liabilities to meet—liabilities which we cannot get away from. Under these circumstances, are we to expect a sensible body of men like this Council to vote against or vote down those liabilities, when we know they have got to be met. The sentiment that we should not vote for those liabilities, because they have been put down in the Budget as the Grand Trunk Canal project, but that a supplementary Budget should be brought forward is one to which Government could not be a party. I have already explained that Government are not prepared at the present moment to give up the Grand Trunk Canal project without a fresh examination of it in all its bearings. What I have said is this in view of the fact of our liabilities this year Government cannot, as Mr Kerr has very clearly stated, spend a penny more than what we have budgeted for, because that is the only amount provided under that head. And, when I have said that these items will only go to meet our liabilities, I do not think that the Council should take up the attitude of voting them down, because they are put down as the Grand Trunk Canal project. This Council will have ample opportunities to consider the matter later.

Now as regards the misconception which seems to have cropped up over my statements that we are going to put this scheme before a Committee, my object was this, if there are four members of this Council on a particular Committee, and, if the Government consider that the project can be proceeded with, if the Government can convince the four members, the Government, when they come up perhaps next year for a grant, will be armed with the opinions of these four members. If, on the other hand, Government find that they cannot make it a productive scheme, which they originally thought would be the case, then the Government can come before the public through a *communiqué* or in some other way—perhaps in the form of a resolution—and say

what they think about it. But until the Government have revised the scheme, I think it would be futile to have any discussion in this Council. Then of course it would be open to any member of this Council to bring forward a resolution and there may be members of the public too who would like to have a general discussion on the whole scheme. What I say now is this, let the general discussion be postponed until Government themselves are in a position to say, after revising the estimate and after examining the scheme, what the scheme is likely to cost and, in view of the interest that is to be paid on the loan, what the rate of production would be, if we are to make it a productive work.

Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has raised the question of detail, which I really did not want to bring in at the present moment. But since he has mentioned something from the report which should not have been discussed here, I would just say something on the point. In the first place Government are not bound to accept everything what the reporting officers report to Government. Secondly, the dredgers in question to which he has made a reference were not available at the time, and, as a consequence, we had to put the order in England. Now as we have come to the question of dredgers, I should like to point out how the matter regarding them stands at present. There are three of them on order, which were under the old estimates to cost £785,270, which sum as I said, was calculated then at Rs. 10 to the pound. Now at the present rate it will cost Rs. 1,00,06,000. The dredgers, as I have said, are under contract Two are expected to be delivered next September and another by the end of 1921. Under these circumstances it will be quite clear to the Council that, although these dredgers will not be delivered before the next cold weather, we cannot postpone the payment of a certain amount The delivery may be delayed—owing to strikes and other things—but we have got to provide for the amount in this year's Budget, because we have got to make payment before March next That point, I think, is made clear.

As regards the liability being binding, I am not prepared at the dictation of my friend, Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, who gets so easily excited, to produce before the Council the terms of the contract, but I may say this, that under the terms of the contract we are bound to take delivery of the dredgers and pay the money.

I now turn to Colonel Pugh's remarks. He has asked me to make a statement. Well, I have already made a statement as regards the necessity of the scheme. I have told the Council that, as, a responsible Government, we ought to re-examine the scheme, and, when we have been able to satisfy the Committee and the public as to the necessity of the scheme, we will commence the work, and as to his reference to the remarks of a certain Mr. Cowley as regards the urgency of the scheme, I have seen it in the papers as well as the vague statement made by Babu Promotho Nath Mullick.

As regards the point of public health, we have already said that the scheme has been examined from the sanitary point of view, and, if any further examination is necessary either by the Sanitary Engineer or by the Sanitary Commissioner, Colonel Pugh may rest assured that that will be done. As regards the petition of the inhabitants of Baranagore, Colonel Pugh will understand that as long as this Government is satisfied that the work is productive, and as long as this Government, the Government of India and the Secretary of State have accepted the alignment, which is now proposed, we cannot possibly alter the alignment to suit the requirements of the people of a certain locality. Of course, if any modification of the scheme is thought desirable, Government will consider it.

Now, as regards some of the dying rivers, of course, if the Grand Trunk Canal project is proceeded with, it will practically close some of these rivers. As regards other rivers, we are taking measurements year after year, and we cannot at present guarantee what is going to happen in regard to these rivers in future. But let me, as a general observation and taking the side of those who are against the Grand Trunk Canal project, say this. Supposing that the Government found itself in the position that it would be unwise to proceed with the Grand Trunk Canal project—I am taking the extreme view—mind you, Sir, that is not my view—I only say "supposing" there is no need to apprehend that his money which we are investing in dredgers will be lost, because in an irrigation province like Bengal, even if we abandon this project, for which these dredgers are being indented, there are many schemes in the Irrigation Department, for which these dredgers could be utilised. That being so, and, I have said, out of Rs. 69,02,000 the greater part goes for the dredgers, and the rest is for liabilities in connection with the scheme, I hope that the members, who have moved their motions, will see fit to withdraw them.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: As the Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, on behalf of Government, has given this assurance that the Council shall be given an opportunity of discussing the whole scheme after revision, and that in the meantime no further land will be acquired, and that this grant does not commit Government to take up this project, I wish to withdraw my amendment.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn

The original motion was then put and agreed to.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): I have the honour to place before this Council a very small motion which I am sure, in the absence of any amendments appearing in the agenda paper, I am entitled to hold that the Council will unanimously accept. The motion is that a sum of Rs. 14,40,000 be granted for expenditure for

loans under the Provincial Loans Account. There are two points whic are to be noticed in this connection. In the first place, we do n borrow, but we lend, and we lend this sum of money to local bodies a to other institutions for public purposes In the second place, the bul of this money is devoted to local improvements and anti-malari operations. A sum of Rs. 10,76,000 is to be spent on local improv ments and anti-malarial operations. The following are the details of t other heads of expenditure:—

Rs. 3,00,000 under Land Acquisition and Agricultural Improv ment loans.

Rs. 20,000 under Co-operative Societies.

Rs. 37,000 under Drainage and Embankments Act.

Rs. 5,000 advance to students of the Weaving School at Serampo

I have stated the details of the loans and I beg that this grant may voted.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR BURDWAN moved "that a sum of Rs. 1,87,000 be granted expenditure for the working expenses of the Midnapore Canal for t year 1921-22."

This is a productive work and every year the road cesses are grow ing up and, as a matter of fact, the working expenses have been ke lower than last year and I hope that the money will be granted

The motion was put and agreed to.

The PRESIDENT: Before the Council adjourns I wish to announ that the election to the Standing Committees will take place on t 1st April from 11 A.M. to 2-15 P.M. when the members may come a record their votes. The election to the Committee on Public Accoun will be held at 2-15 P.M. on the same day. I understand it was notified take place on the 7th, but I think it will be more convenient to hav it on the 1st.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned to Friday, the 1st April, 1921, 3 P.M., in the Town Hall, Calcutta.

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report of the First Session.)

VOLUME I—No. 6.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council assembled at 3 P.M. on Friday, the 1st April, 1921, in the Council Chamber, in the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers and 111 nominated and elected members.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Low price of raw jute.

***1. Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether any inquiry has been made as to the causes which have resulted in the price of raw jute being brought down considerably during the last few years?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what, if any, remedial measures Government contemplate for alleviating the condition of the agriculturists who are hard hit by this lowering of prices?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of ACRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) Inquiries have been made from time to time. The member is referred to the reply given to the starred question No. VIII at the meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council held on the 19th November, 1919.

(*b*) From the information at their disposal Government have no reason to believe that any remedial measures are required.

Cinchona plantation.

***11. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of Bengal intends to dispose of their cinchona plantation to the Government of India?

(*b*) If so, what steps do the Government intend to take about the supply of quinine to Bengal?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to place the necessary papers relating to the sale on the table?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware of the feeling that exists that it is advisable to retain the said plantation for the use of Bengal only?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the Army and provinces other than Bengal get the preference in the supply of quinine?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state—

(*i*) the amount of quinine manufactured,

(*ii*) the amount supplied to the Army Department,

(*iii*) the amount supplied to other provinces, and

(*iv*) the amount supplied to Bengal?

(*g*) Are the Government considering the desirability of distributing quinine at a nominal cost to the various local boards to serve as an anti-malarial measure?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (LAND REVENUE) (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) Yes, but the question has not yet been finally settled.

(*b*) On the imperialisation of the Cinchona Department, this province, along with other provinces, will get its supply of quinine from the amalgamated Cinchona Department. It is not apprehended that there will be any difficulty in getting the supply of quinine required for this province.

(*c*) As the final decision has not yet been made on the subject, papers cannot be laid on the table.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) (*i*) The member is referred to paragraph 3 of the Annual Report of the Government Cinchona Plantation and Factory in Bengal for the year 1919-20, copy of which is laid on the library table.

(*ii*) The information is not available, as no quinine is supplied to the Army Department direct.

(*iii*) Supplies to other provinces during 1919-20, excluding Medical Store Depôt at Lahore, amounted to 17,869 lbs. This included 3,631 lbs. of quinine distributed as 'quinine treatments' to Assam, Bihar and Orissa and the Punjab; 27,000 lbs. were supplied to the Medical Store Depôt at Lahore in 1919-20.

(*iv*) Supplies to Bengal during 1919-20, other than Medical Store Depôt, Calcutta, amounted to 13,957 lbs. This included 7,199 lbs. of 'quinine treatments;' 4,615 lbs. were supplied to the Medical Store Depôt in Calcutta.

(*g*) Government make grants of quinine free of cost to hospitals and dispensaries through Civil Surgeons. Statements A and B showing the quantities distributed during the years 1919-20 and 1920-21 are laid on the table.

STATEMENT A

Referred to in the reply to starred question No. 11 (g), showing the quantity of Sulphate of Quinine and Cinchona Febrifuge supplied to Civil Surgeons for distribution to hospitals and dispensaries during 1919-20.

District	Sulphate of quinine	Cinchona febrifuge
	lbs.	lbs.
Burdwan	169	338
Birbhum	46	92
Bankura	33	66
Midnapore	55	110
Hooghly	95	190
Howrah	10	20
24-Parganas	106	212
Nadia	128	256
Murshidabad	89	178
Jessore	65	130
Khulna	52	104
Rajshahi	42	84
Dinajpur	31	62
Jalpaiguri	23	46
Darjeeling	13	26
Rangpur	100	200
Bogra	28	56
Pabna	35	70
Malda	43	86
Dacca	28	56
Mymensingh	36	72
Faridpur	33	66
Bakarganj	28	56
Chittagong	25	50
Noakhali	18	36
Tippera	14	28
Chittagong Hill Tracts ...	7	14
Total ...	1,352	2,704

STATEMENT B

Referred to in the reply to starred question No. II (g) showing the quantity of Sulphate of Quinine and Cinchona Febrifuge supplied to Civil Surgeons for distribution to hospitals and dispensaries during 1920-21.

District			Sulphate of quinine	Cinchona febrifuge
			lbs.	lbs.
Burdwan		...	175	350
Birbhum	...	...	56	112
Bankura	...	...	38	76
Midnapore	...	...	61	122
Hooghly	...	...	102	204
Howrah	...	...	12	24
24-Parganas	...	...	124	248
Nadia	...	...	107	214
Murshidabad	...	...	80	160
Jessore	...	...	60	120
Khulna	...	...	66	132
Rajshahi	...	...	39	78
Dinajpur	...	...	44	88
Jalpaiguri	...	...	27	54
Darjeeling	...	...	11	22
Rangpur	...	...	91	182
Bogra	...	...	42	84
Pabna	...	...	27	54
Malda	...	...	40	80
Dacca	...	...	31	62
Mymensingh	...	...	42	84
Faridpur	...	...	34	68
Bakarganj	...	...	36	72
Chittagong	...	...	37	74
Noakhali	...	...	25	50
Tippera	...	...	25	50
Chittagong Hill Tracts		...	8	16
	Total	...	1,440	2,880

Department of Industries.

***III. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state the nature of the present organisation of the Department of Industries, the respective salaries of the officials and the total estimated cost of the Department?

(*b*) What actual work has the Department done up to date for the help or promotion of industries in Bengal?

(*c*) Has the present Head of the Department of Industries had any industrial training or experience?

(*d*) Have the higher appointments in the Department been filled by men possessing these qualifications?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to indicate the special qualifications of the higher officials of the Department?

(*f*) Have they any knowledge of industrial conditions in this country?

(*g*) How many Indians have been appointed to the higher posts in this Department?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) The member is referred to the proceedings of the meeting of the Advisory Board of Industries held on the 16th November, 1920, and Appendix A thereto (copies laid on the library table) showing the present organisation and the salaries of the officials of the Department of Industries.

The estimated cost of the department for the year 1920-21 is Rs. 3 lakhs.

(*b*) An idea of the work done by the department up to date can be obtained from the following documents, copies of which are laid on the library table:—

(1) Administration Report of the Department for the period ending December, 1919.

(2) Proceedings of the meetings of the Advisory Board of Industries.

(3) The Journal of Industries and Labour

(*c*) Yes. The present Director is an M.A., D.Sc. of the University of Glasgow with the highest training in Mathematics, Electricity, Chemistry, Geology and Mechanics. Prior to his appointment as Director of Industries he was in the Munitions Board for two years, first as Assistant Controller and then as Controller of Munitions, Bengal, and as such he acquired considerable industrial experience by coming in close contact with the manufacturers and industrial concerns of the province.

(*d*) and (*e*) A statement showing the qualifications of the higher officials of the Department is laid on the table.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) Six.

S atement referred to in the reply to starred question No. III (d) and showing the qualifications of the higher officials of the Departm of Industries, Bengal.

—	Educational qualifications.	Experience.
Deputy Director ...	B. Sc. and M. Sc of the University of Manchester. Stood first in the Honours Division in Engineering of the Manchester University Three years' training in one of the well-known firms of Shipbuilders and Engineers of Scotland Four years with the Royal Carriage Department, Woolwich Arsenal.	From 1909-12 was Asst Civil Engineer Adviser from 1913-18 was Civil gineer Adviser to the In Ordnance Factorie subsequently appoi Works Manager, Gun Shell Factory, Cossip He was responsible for dr ing up specifications fo new machines and plans all technical processes in 7 Ordnance Factories Works Manager he was versant with the indus and technical problems volved in the managem of a factory employing al 3,000 men.
Industrial Intelligence Officer.	B.A. (Oxon.) Member of the I C.S of 7 years' standing.	
Inspector of Technical and Industrial Institution.	B.A , B E. (Dub), M.I. Mech E., M.I.F.E Member of the I.E.S. of 19 years' standing.	
Superintendent, Calcutta Research Tannery.	M A. (Cal.)., M Sc. (Leeds). L.T C. (Leeds).	Visited Germany, Italy other places in the contin For several years Mana of one of the biggest t neries in India.
Principal Government Weaving Institute	Licentiate of Mechanical Engineering. Passed highest examination in Technology under the City and Guilds of London Institute. Holder of 1st class diploma of the Manchester School of Technology. Associate Member of the School of Technology, Manchester.	Weaving Master for 3 ye in textile factories Sev al years' experience as commercial traveller of well-known firm of tex machinery manufacturers
Circle Officer, Presidency Circle.	B. A. (Harvard University, U.S.A). Special subjects—Physics and Mathematics. Subsidiary subjects Chemistry, Geology, Botany, Zoology, Astronomy, and Electrical Engineering'	Professor of Physics for years in one of the Tech cal Institutes in Peng Assistant Professor of Phy ics. University College Science. Organiser of a fe industrial concerns Visit technological institutes America, England and Indi

—	Educational qualifications.	Experience
Circle Officer, Dacca Circle.	M A., B. Sc., of the Edinburgh University passing in Chemistry and obtaining distinction in the class of advanced Chemistry. Barrister-at-law.	Visited some factories in Edinburgh Has experience in Soap Manufacture Studied Geology and Mineralogy.
Circle Officer, Asansol Circle	Stood first in the M Sc Examination of the Calcutta University. Was Government Research Scholar	Demonstrator of Chemistry, Muir Central College and Dacca College
Circle Officer, Jalpaiguri Circle	Studied for 2 years in the Applied Chemistry Department of the Tokio Higher Technological School. Holder of Diploma in the leather manufacture from the University of Leeds Holder of 1st class certificates in the Honours Grade of the City and Guilds of London Institute Examinations in (1) Leather Tanning, (2) Leather Dyeing and Finishing and (3) Dressing of Skins	Experience in tanning industry, Agriculture, Chemistry and Bacteriology
Circle Officer, Chittagong Circle.	M. Sc. of the Calcutta University in Physics (1st class) Government Research Scholar.	Was Chemist of the Assam Oil Co, Ltd Has some experience in Mechanical Engineering

Training of wards under the Court of Wards.

*IV. **Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to lay the following statistics on the table—

(*1*) the number of estates managed by the Court of Wards since the year 1880;

(*2*) the total number of minors who were under the Court of Wards since the year 1880;

(*3*) the total number of wards who received University education;

(*4*) the names of those wards who obtained University degrees during the management of their estates by the Court of Wards, stating the years in which they got such degrees;

(*5*) the names of those who obtained degrees after the release of their estates from the Court of Wards;

(*6*) the number of wards who got practical zamindari training; and

(*7*) the nature of the practical training that is given to the wards?

(*b*) Is instruction imparted to the wards in regard to the following subjects:—

(*i*) surveying;

(*ii*) preparation of zamindari papers;

(*iii*) laws relating to land;

(*iv*) scientific agriculture; and

(*v*) sanitation?

(*c*) If not, do the Government contemplate giving the wards in future instruction in any or all of the above subjects?

(*d*) How many wards are at present under the Court of Wards?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) (*1*), (*3*) and (*4*) A statement is placed on the table

(*a*) (*2*), (*5*) and (*6*) Information is not available.

(*a*) (*7*) A scheme was formulated by the Board of Revenue in 1912-13 the training of officers in survey and settlement operations. Six wards being sent to the training camp held annually in the cold weather for the training of officers in survey and settlement operations. Six wards have received such training. Endeavour is also made to teach wards zamindari work in Managers' offices but without much success.

(*b*) and (*c*) The member is referred to the answer given to (*a*) (*7*)

(*d*) 134.

Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. IV (a) (1), (3) and (4).

Year.	Answer to Question (*a*) (*1*).	Answer to Question (*a*) (*3*).	Answer to Question (*a*) (4)
	Number of estates managed by the Court of Ward	Number of wards who received University education.	Names of wards who obtained University degrees.
1880-81 ...	105	...	
1881-82 ...	96	...	
1882-83 ...	94	2	
1883-84 ...	93	1	
1884-85 ...	88	1	
1885-86 ...	76	...	
1886-87 ...	68	1	
1887-88 ...	62	...	
1888-89 ...	55	...	

Year.	Answer to Question (a) (1).	Answer to Question (a) (3).	Answer to Question (a) (4).
	Number of estates managed by the Court of Wards.	Number of wards who received University education.	Names of wards who obtained University degrees
1889-90 ...	53	...	
1890-91 ...	51	2	
1891-92 ...	52	1	
1892-93 ...	50	3	
1893-94 ...	52	...	
1894-95 ...	48	...	
1895-96 ...	41	...	
1896-97 ...	40	...	
1897-98 ...	34	1	
1898-99 ...	30	1	
1899-1900 ...	31	2	
1900-01 ...	35	2	
1901-02 ...	40	5	Sudhansu Bimal Roy passed B.A.
1902-03 ...	40	3	
1903-04 ...	44	3	Tarak Nath Chaudhuri passed B.A., with honours in Philosophy.
1904-05 ...	42	1	
1905-06 ...	56	1	
1906-07 ...	62	6	
1907-08 ...	68	7	
1908-09 ...	68	3	
1909-10 ...	68	3	
1910-11 ...	75	6	
1911-12 ...	68	11	
1912-13 ...	59	12	Hem Kanta Sen Chaudhury passed B.A.
1913-14 ...	57	12	
1914-15 ...	53	10	Probodh Chandra Mandal passed B.A., with honours in Economy.
1915-16 ...	57	12	Provash Chandra Mandal passed B.A.
1916-17 ...	55	5	
1917-18 ...	62	6	Nagendra Nath Sen Gupta passed B.Sc. of Armstrong College with honours.
1918-19 ...	69	8	Satish Chandra Gupta passed B.A.
1919-20 ...	69	3	

Establishment of a medical school in Mymensingh.

***V. Mr. S. M. BOSE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to make a statement showing what progress has been made in the establishment of a medical school in Mymensingh and what steps are being contemplated in connection therewith?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the estimated cost of such establishment and what amount the Government will be pleased to contribute towards such cost?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state, if any, and if so, what sum will be provided in the Budget for 1921-22 towards the cost of such establishment?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): (*a*) A scheme for the establishment of a medical school at Mymensingh has recently been received from the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bengal and is now under consideration.

(*b*) The capital cost is estimated at Rs. 5,10,000, while the recurring cost will be about Rs. 50,000 a year. Government are unable to say how much they will contribute, until it has been ascertained what assistance will be forthcoming from the local bodies and public of Mymensingh.

(*c*) No provision has been made for the scheme in next year's budget.

Case of running train thefts between Lalgola Ghat and Naihati.

***VI. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state the number of complaints received during the last five years regarding running train thefts on the Eastern Bengal Railway between the stations Lalgola Ghat and Naihati?

(*b*) Have any accused been traced in any of those cases; if so, with what result?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what preventive steps, if any, have been taken in this connection?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): (*a*) Sixty-four.

(*b*) In eleven of these cases the offenders were traced and convicted

(*c*) Up to the creation of the Detective Department in February, 1919, each of the two most important trains between Ranaghat and Lalgola—19 up and 20 down—always carried a plain-clothes constable,

whose duty it was to look out for thieves. This duty is now being performed by constables of the Detective Department. The whole question of the police arrangements on railways is at present being examined by a committee appointed by the Government of India.

Application of road-cess and its unspent balances.

*VII. **Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) what were the unspent balances of road-cess in each district collected during the last five years; and

(*ii*) how much of the monies spent out of road cess fund was applied to the purposes for which such cess was levied during the last five years?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*i*) Figures for Tippera, Noakhali, Jalpaiguri and Bogra are not available. A statement is laid on the table showing the amounts of unspent balances held by the District Boards of Burdwan, 24-Parganas, Murshidabad and Jessore during the last five years. The remaining District Boards had no unspent balance of road-cess funds during these years.

(*ii*) The District Boards (with the exception of the four mentioned above for which figures are not available) report that the entire amounts spent by them out of road-cess funds were applied to the purposes for which the cess was levied.

Statement referred to in the reply to the starred question No. VII (i), showing the amount of unspent balance of road cess receipts.

District Board.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Burdwan ...	70,684	1,59,601	1,91,547	2,38,310	2,02,053
24-Parganas ...	5,852	5,717	1,529	2,568	5,575
Murshidabad ...	*nil*	*nil*	*nil*	22,527	*nil*
Jessore ...	880	3,241	21,373	23,714	5,834

Officers on special duty in connection with the improvement of prima education.

***VIII. Mr. H. A. STARK:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state—

(*i*) the names in succession of the several officers who, since Apr 1912, have been on special duty in the office of the Direct of Public Instruction, Bengal, in connection with the improv ment of primary education in Bengal;

(*ii*) the local experience and other special qualifications (includi proficiency in the vernaculars of the province) of each of t above officers, in consideration of which he was regarded competent for the work assigned to him;

(*iii*) the period of each officer's deputation;

(*iv*) the cost to Government—each item separately stated—in respe of the pay, deputation allowance, travelling allowance, offi establishment, and printing of the report of each of the abo officers; and

(*v*) the net result of each officer's report, recommendations, an deputation?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (th Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): (*i*) Mr. Michael P. West; Mr. Ev E. Biss.

(*ii*) Mr. West's local experience and other qualifications are : follows:—

(*a*) Experimental work in primary education in Dacca town, 1914-1 including actual teaching in a *pathsala*.

(*b*) Tour with Director of Public Instruction in Dacca Division with special reference to primary schools.

(*c*) Inspector of Schools, Chittagong Division, 1915-17. Durin this time he reorganised the Normal School and the *Gur* Training School system there.

(*d*) He is the author of a work, 'Education Selective Specific in which the problem of primary education is considered a some length. He is also the author of many other article and books of an educational nature.

(*e*) He has a good working knowledge of Bengali. He passed th Departmental examination by the Higher standard in 1914

(*f*) Most of the research, the results of which are contained in th Survey of Education, was conducted by Mr. West in th vernacular personally.

(*g*) Mr. West is a member of the Indian Educational Service, and received professional training as a teacher in England.

Mr. Biss's local experience and other special qualifications are as follows:—

(*a*) He had a wide experience of the problems of primary education for over five years before coming to India. When Principal of the Dacca Training College he watched experiments in primary education for over two years in Dacca.

(*b*) He has acted as Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education, and so understands the peculiar requirements of the Moslem community.

(*c*) He is a member of the Indian Educational Service, of considerable administrative ability.

(*iii*) Mr. West.—Six months, from November 1st, 1917.

Mr. Biss.—Since July 10th, 1920.

(*iv*) Mr. West's deputation—

	Rs.	A.	P.
(*a*) Pay ...	3,918	5	4
(*b*) Travelling allowance	3,000*	0	0
(*c*) Office establishment	3,636	0	0
(*d*) Printing of the report	2,952	8	7
Total	13,506	13	11

* Amount allotted

Mr. Biss's deputation (up to 28th February, 1921)—

	Rs.	A.	P.
(*a*) Pay ...	10,062	9	3
(*b*) Deputation allowance	2,042	8	3
(*c*) Travelling allowance	3,000†	0	0
(*d*) Office establishment ..	10,313	7	8
Total	25,418	9	2

† Amount provided

(*v*) The net result of Mr. West's deputation.—The effect of the inquiry was to establish by statistical proof resulting from objective study the fact that the aided system cannot in Bengal be made the basis of a national system of education; that the cost of a complete provincial system prohibits its immediate introduction as a whole; but that a beginning can be made in the more advanced areas; that the training of subordinate inspecting officers in the specific problems of primary

education is an imperative and immediate necessity. Certain definit weaknesses in the primary system were brought into prominence, a dangers to be avoided or as problems to be solved, *e.g.*, overlapping an unemployment. Certain lines of advance were indicated, in regard t types of building and furniture, methods of inspection, teaching method and training.

The net results of Mr. Biss's deputation.—Mr. Biss's deputatio has not yet come to an end, and it is impossible to indicate final results Preliminary recommendations regarding the extension of primary edu cation have been placed before a Conference of representatives of non official members of District Boards. Schemes have been worked ou in detail for primary education in 35 municipalities. Two have bee fully accepted (Rangpur and Chandpur). Eleven have accepted th policy outlined, but are discussing methods of financing it. Th remainder are still discussing the schemes put before them. In non municipal areas it is proposed to work as far as possible through th new union boards, under the supervision of district boards; 25 unio board area schemes have been worked out in detail, and some areas hav applied to be allowed to begin work on these schemes. It is antic pated that in the coming year the remaining 80 municipalities and 50 out of about 1,500 union boards that have been formed will have detaile schemes submitted to them.

Powers of the Legislative Council to fix the pay of Ministers.

***IX. Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY:** Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department prepared to lay on the table the legal opinion obtained by Government regarding the powers of the Legislative Council to fix the pay of Ministers?

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): The opinions of the Law Officers are treated as confidential, and Government see no sufficient reason to make an exception to that rule in this instance.

Decision in the House of Commons as to powers of provincial Councils over the administration of transferred subjects.

***X. Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department been drawn to Reuter's telegram dated London, the 2nd March, and published in the daily papers of the 5th March regarding the decision of the Speaker of the House of Commons regarding the powers of the Local Legislative Councils over the administration of transferred subjects.

(*b*) If so, are the Government prepared to obtain an authenticated copy from England of the same for the information of the Council?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) Government have seen a Reuter's telegram dated the 1st March regarding a statement by the Speaker of the House of Commons, which is probably that referred to by the member. That pronouncement, however, referred to procedure in the House of Commons itself and does not affect the powers of the Local Legislative Councils over the administration of transferred subjects.

(*b*) It is not considered necessary, therefore, to obtain an authenticated copy of this decision.

Promotion and prospects of Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

***XI. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minster in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many Sub-Assistant Surgeons have been promoted to the rank of Assistant Surgeons during the last five years for exceptionally meritorious services;

(*ii*) whether good reports have been received as to their capacity, and

(*iii*) how many more Sub-Assistant Surgeons are there who have been considered fit for promotion?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of reserving a few posts of Civil Surgeons for these officers?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) (*i*) Five.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) In the opinion of the Surgeon-General with this Government five or possibly six.

(*b*) No. There are seven Assistant Surgeons who are Civil Surgeons.

Inquiry into the causes of flood in Naogaon, Bogra and Dinajpur.

***XII. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether in pursuance of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Mr. Cumming in reply to the resolution moved by me at the meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council on the 26th November, 1918, any inquiry was made into the causes of the flood in Naogoan, Bogra and Dinajpur?

(*b*) If the answer to clause (*a*) is in the affirmative, does the Hon'ble the Member intend to lay on the table a copy of the report of such inquiry?

(*c*) Would the Hon'ble the Member state what action has been taken by the Government to prevent a recurrence of such flood?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (th Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) preliminary report was obtained and the question of floodin was discussed at a joint meeting of the Irrigation and Railwa Branch Secretaries of the Local Government and the Senior Governme Inspector of Railways in April, 1919. It was decided that furth informations regarding levels of floods, railway embankments and wate ways of railways should be obtained These informations have not ye been received.

(*b*) and (*c*) As the inquiry is not completed, this question does no arise.

Improvement of Sankararah Khal in Tamluk.

***XIII. Babu SARAT CHANDRA MUKHOPADHAYA:** (*a* Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigatio be pleased to state what steps have been taken to re-excavate and exten the Sankararah khal for the effective drainage of the Tamluk par gana in the Tamluk subdivision of the Midnapore district?

(*b*) If no steps have yet been taken, when will the work be taken up

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR o BURDWAN: (*a*) Surveys and investigations are in progress for th preparation of a scheme for improving the drainage of the area referre to.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Grant to the Calcutta University.

*** XIV. Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware of the statement made in the Legislative Assembly by the Hon'ble Mr. Shafi, on behalf of the Government of India, that the allotment of a grant for the Calcutta University would be definitely against the spirit of the financial arrangements under the Reforms?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether the local Government accept the responsibility for the future?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the Calcutta University is in urgent need of funds due—

(*1*) to its present commitments;

(*2*) to the necessity for expansion in the Departments of Technology, Commerce and Agriculture, owing to the economic demands of the people; and

(*3*) to the situation created by the establishment of the Dacca University?

(*d*) Is it a fact that stability of tenure of appointment and better prospects offered to its teachers have been offered by the Dacca University to a greater extent than by the Calcutta University?

(*e*) Did the authorities of the Calcutta University apply to the Government of Bengal for a grant for recurring and non-recurring expenditure which they consider to be urgent?

(*f*) If the answer to the question is "Yes," will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the grounds on which the Government have thought it fit to reject the application?

(*g*) Is it the intention of the Government of Bengal that the two Universities should be maintained in a position of parity, considering the needs and requirements of each and the possibilities of development?

(*h*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to make a definite declaration of the policy of the local Government towards the Calcutta University during the transition period preceding the adoption of the recommendations of the Commission?

(*i*) Will the Government of Bengal consider the desirability of making an *ad interim* grant of Rs. 1,25,000 as recommended by the Commission?

(*j*) If the answer is "No," will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the grounds on which they base their decision?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) I have seen reports in the newspapers to this effect.

(*b*) A Bill is now before the Legislative Assembly the object of which is to transfer the control of Calcutta University to the Government of Bengal. If this Bill is placed on the Statute Book, the responsibility for Calcutta University, so far as that institution depends upon Government at all, would devolve upon the Government of Bengal. If the Member's intention is that "responsibility" should cover "financial responsibility," then I may add that this Government have made it quite clear to the Government of India that unless adequate financial relief is given to the Government of Bengal in accordance with the recommendation of the Parliamentary Joint Committee that Government will find it impossible to meet adequately the additional financial demands made upon it as a result of the transfer of the University.

(*c*) (*1*) and (*2*) Some information on the points indicated was conveyed to this Government by two representations submitted on or about the 7th February last. Until I have examined the position not only in connection with the commitments of the University, but also with reference to the question of its expansion in these and other directions, I am not prepared to make any statement either with regard to the University's present financial position or its development. Nor am I prepared to suggest on the basis of the information now before me what

action, if any this Government might be prepared to take in the matte to which the member refers.

(*c*) (*3*) and (*d*) The establishment of a University at Dacca has bee under consideration for the last nine years and the Calcutta Universit Commission, which contained an ex-Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta Un versity, strongly urged that this University should be established wit out further delay. The Government of India accordingly passed A XVIII of 1920, an Act to establish and incorporate a unitary teachin and residential University at Dacca. In the representations recent received, to which reference has been made in the answers given t questions (*c*) (*1*) and (*2*), a statement is made to the effect that certa employees of Calcutta University are being attracted to Dacca Universi by the superior prospects of the latter. The University of Dacca ha been constituted in virtue of section 3 of Act XVIII of 1920. body corporate and empowered in virtue of section 4 (*1*) the said Act to provide for instruction in such branches learning as the University may think fit and to make pr vision for research and for the advancement and dissemination knowledge. Section 50 (*1*) (*c*) enacts that at any time after the pass ing of the Act and until such time as the authorities of the Universit shall have been duly constituted teachers of the University shall b appointed by the Governor of Bengal after considering the recommenda tions of an advisory committee consisting of the Vice-Chancellor o Dacca University, the Director of Public Instruction and such othe person or persons, as the Governor of Bengal thinks fit to associate wit them. The Government of Bengal, therefore, as such, have no statu with regard to appointments to the Dacca University, but I am informe that His Excellency the Governor added to the Committee, which he wa required to appoint in accordance with the statutory provision qu quoted, the Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University, and the Hon'ble th Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda. So far as the Government of Benga are aware, the Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University, has never sub mitted any representation or objection, suggesting that Dacca Univer sity was competing with Calcutta University to the prejudice of th latter.

(*e*) As stated in the answer to (*c*) (*1*) and (*2*) above, two represen tations, dated the 7th February, 1921, were submitted to this Govern ment. In one of these representations this Government were asked t provide for a capital grant of Rs. 11,00,000 to be contributed, in part dur ing the ensuing financial year and in part subsequently, towards the construction of a University building on what is known as the fish market site—or more correctly as Madhab Babu's Bazar. It may be explained in this connection that in 1913 the Government of India made a non-recurring grant to enable the University to acquire Madhab Babu's Bazar. The bazar was acquired by the Government of Bengal at an actual cost of Rs. 6,41,440, but, under instructions from the

Government of India, the local Government in 1915 made over to the University the balance of the Rs. 8,00,000 grant, *i.e.*, Rs 1,58,560. The University has also up to the present been enjoying the annual income derived from the market, and at the moment the securities standing to the credit of the University in the Madhab Babu Bazar's fund amount to a face value of Rs. 5,56,800 and to an approximate actual present value of about Rs. 4,50,000. Thus I was in effect asked to commit this Government to a grant of Rs 11,00,000 towards a project on which a sum of Rs. 8,00,000 of public money has already been contributed. The other representation of the same date contained two requests, viz., one for the provision of a capital grant of Rs. 10,00,000 for the development of technological studies in connection with the University College of Science and one for a further grant of Rs. 1,25,000 to enable the University to increase the salaries of the teachers in its postgraduate department. In putting forward the former of these two requests, it is stated that the provision of Rs 10,00,000 is needed for the extension of technological studies, as recommended by the Calcutta University Commission in paragraph 75 of Chapter LI of their Report If the member will look at this paragraph, he will find that the carrying into effect of the Commission's proposals in connection with the inauguration of technological studies in Calcutta University was estimated to involve not only a capital grant from public funds of Rs 10,00,000 but an annual recurring grant from the same source of Rs 1,16,400. With regard to this last item, the letter from the University states that it is obvious that a recurring grant would be needed for the purpose of carrying out efficiently the work of technological and agricultural instruction from year to year, but adds that the Vice-Chancellor and the Syndicate do not press for a recurring grant during the ensuing session, as they will be content to utilize the capital grant which may be placed at their discretion with the assistance of their present staff No particulars are given as to the recurring cost likely to be involved. In the matter of the recurring grant asked for on account of the teachers of the postgraduate department, no information has been placed before this Government. The University's letter merely cites an extract from paragraph 54 of Chapter LI of the Calcutta University Commission Report Volume V, pages 282-283), which contains a sentence to the effect that it would demand an additional expenditure of about Rs 1,25,000 to increase the average salary to about Rs 300. I felt that these two representations were of such far-reaching consequence and would involve the University and this Government in such important financial and other commitments that it would not be right for me to decide these questions without very careful consideration. I also felt that as a Minister it would be my duty to take the Legislative Council, or at any rate some properly appointed committee of the Council, into my confidence before I decided to commit Government to such important schemes. Further, regard being had to the provisions of rule 37 of

the Devolution Rules made under sections 45 (*a*) and 129 (*a*) of t Government of India Act (of which presumably Calcutta Univers was aware), it was not possible for me to include the grants asked or any part thereof in the Budget estimates for 1921-22, which had b provisionally adopted by the Government some time before the recep these two representations from the University.

(*f*) The member is referred to the answer under (*e*) above. I h not rejected the applications, but under the statutory rules it was possible for me to consider them for the purpose of the Budget provisi for 1921-22.

(*g*), (*h*), (*i*) and (*j*) If and when the Bill which is now before Legislative Assembly is placed on the Statute Book, this Governm being then the controlling authority of Calcutta University, under terms of the original Act of Incorporation (Act II of 1857), as int preted in the light of the Indian Universities Act (Act VIII of 190 will define their policy towards that institution. What that policy w be will depend largely on the funds then available to this Governm or likely to become so, as also upon the views adopted by the Le lative Council. The question of an *ad interim* grant will then be c sidered.

Revision of the pay of Sub-Registrars.

***XV. Mr. S. M. BOSE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether is a fact that the Inspector-General of Registration submitted a sche for the revision of the pay of the Sub-Registrars, involving an additio expenditure of three lakhs.

(*b*) Is it proposed during 1921-22 to provide the sum of Rs 75,0 only for such revision of pay?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware of the very keen disappo ment that this proposal has caused among the Sub-Registrars?

(*d*) Does the Hon'ble the Minister intend to grant further relief the Sub-Registrars during the course of the year?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) The answer is in the affirmati

(*b*) and (*d*) The sum of Rs. 75,000 has been provided in the Bud It is not at present possible to say whether further provision will made later in the year. In this connection I may refer the Member the statement I made on 15th March 1921, in moving the demand for grant under the head '9.—Registration.'

(*c*) No representation on the subject has been received by Gover ment.

Free and half-free studentships for school students.

***XVI. Maulvi ABDUL KARIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state what was the total grant made last year for free studentships and half-free studentships for school students?

(*b*) Is it a fact that there are age-limits for candidates for free studentships in the Government and aided schools?

(*c*) If the answer to clause (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many students, Muhammadan and others, otherwise qualified, were refused aid on account of the age-limits last year and

(*ii*) the amount, if any, of the grant which remained unutilized for want of candidates within the prescribed age-limit?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have any intention to revise or remove the age-limit in the near future?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) Free studentships are remissions of fees: no funds are provided.

(*b*) Yes; reference is invited to the appendix in Director of Public Instruction's circular No. 231, dated 6th November, 1917, a copy of which is laid on the table.

(*c*) (*i*) The information is not available.

(*ii*) This does not arise.

(*d*) No.

Circular referred to in reply to starred question No. XVI (b).

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

Education Department.

CIRCULAR No. 231/4F.-3P.—1917.

THE undermentioned document, with spare copies, is forwarded to the Inspectors of Schools, Inspectresses of Schools, Principals of Colleges and Eden High School for Girls, Dacca, and Principal, Calcutta Madrassa, in continuation of this office memoranda Nos. 4529-47, dated the 10th March 1916.

F. C. TURNER,

Assistant Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 6th November 1917.

No. 639 T.—Edn., dated Darjeeling, the 10th October 1917.

FROM—C. W. GURNER, ESQ., I.C.S., Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General (Education) Department,

To—The Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

IN supersession of all previous orders on the subject, I am directed to say that Government approve of the accompanying rules for the award of free-studentship in Government and in Government-aided schools in the Presidency of Bengal

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Rules for the award of Free-Studentships in Government as well as in Government-aided Schools.

1. (*a*) Free-studentships in Government schools under the control of managing committees are awarded by the committee.

(*b*) The Inspector and the Inspectress of Schools control the award of free studentships in Government schools for boys (including mixed schools) and Government schools for girls, respectively, which are not under managing committees

2. Teachers in Government schools, drawing salaries not exceeding Rs 50 a month, are allowed the privilege of educating, in the school in which they are employed, one child free and one child at half the usual rate of fees Head Masters or Head Mistresses may grant these concessions.

3. Government pensioners (other than menials) who have retired from service in the Department of Public Instruction, and whose pensions do not exceed Rs 25 a month may be allowed the same privileges as teachers in Government schools The concessions may also be extended to the orphans of officers who died in the service of the department while in the receipt of pay not exceeding Rs 50 a month and also to the orphans of pensioners of the department (other than menials) who were drawing pensions not exceeding Rs. 25 a month

4. In Government as well as in Government-aided schools the numbers of non-Muhammadan and Muhammadan free students will ordinarily be five per cent of their respective enrolments, excluding free places granted in terms of the preceding rules as well as scholarship-holders who have been granted free tuition

5. In view of the backwardness of the Moslem community, Muhammadan pupils in Government as well as in Government-aided schools will be allowed additional free places (over and above those provided for in the preceding rule) up to limit of a further ten per cent. of their own enrolment.

6. No pupil shall be eligible for a free-studenship who is above the age-limits prescribed in the Appendix on the 1st January of the year in which the award is made.

7. Boys above those age-limits, who have already been awarded free-studentships, may be allowed to enjoy these privileges so long as they fulfil the conditions laid down in rule 8.

8. Free-studentships are awarded on conditions of good conduct and satisfactory progress as determined by school examination.

APPENDIX.

Age Limitation.

Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions.		Presidency and Burdwan Divisions	
Class	Age-limit for free-students	Class	Age-limit for free-students
	Years		Years
X	16	I	16
IX	15	II	15
VIII	14	III	14
VII	13	IV	13
Sandard VI	12	Standard VI	12
V	11	V	11
IV	10	IV	10
III	9	III	9

Soadighi-Gangakhali drainage scheme in Midnapore.

* **XVII. Babu SARAT CHANDRA MUKHOPADHAYA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state the estimated cost of construction of the drainage scheme known as the Soadighi-Gangakhali canal, for drainage of the Kashigorah pargana in the Tamluk subdivision, Midnapore district?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the amount, if any, that has been set apart in the next year's budget for the construction of the said canal?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to say why the work has not yet been taken up?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to say when the work will be commenced?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) The estimated cost of the Soadighi-Gangakhali drainage project is Rs. 4,47,206.

(*b*) Nil.

(*c*) Owing to the paucity of officers in the Irrigation Department, as also the several anti-malarial drainage works already taken up by that Department which are in progress and on which the available officers are fully occupied.

(*d*) This cannot be stated at present as the Irrigation Department has been further handicapped by the unfortunate death of two superior officers during the last six months and also for uncertainty of funds.

Dacca University.

***XVIII. Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to give the following information in regard to the Dacca University:—

(*i*) the name of the Vice-Chancellor, his salary and allowance if any, and the period of his appointment;

(*ii*) the designation of the other chief administrative authorities and the salary attached to each of such posts;

(*iii*) the number of University professors to be immediately appointed, the subjects they will teach and the salary attached to each professorship;

(*iv*) the number of University readers to be immediately appointed, the subjects they will teach and the salary attached to each readership;

(*v*) the number of University lecturers to be immediately appointed, the subjects they will teach and the salary attached to each lectureship;

(*vi*) the number of provosts of halls, the names of halls and salary attached to each provostship; and

(*vii*) the names, with a brief statement of qualifications and salaries (progressive or otherwise), of all persons who have been approved for appointment as—

(*1*) provosts;
(*2*) University professors;
(*3*) readers;
(*4*) lecturers; and
(*5*) chief administrative officers?

(*b*) Is it true that Dr. J. C. Ghosh has been approved for appointment to a chair of chemistry?

(*c*) If so, on what salary?

(*d*) Is it a fact that Dr. J. C. Ghosh was on the staff of University teachers in the University Science College, Calcutta, and that he was on the grade Rs. 200—300, that he has been sent to England by the Calcutta University for special training with a large grant made from the Palit fund and also a substantial study leave grant, on condition that he would after return continue to work in the Calcutta University for not less than three years and, on failure, pay damages?

(*e*) Is it a fact that Mr. Haridas Bhattacharyya, now lecturer in the Department of Philosophy, Calcutta University, on a salary of Rs. 300, has been approved for appointment at Dacca on a salary of Rs. 500 a month?

(*f*) Is it a fact that Mr. Satyendra Nath Bose, now lecturer in the Departments of Physics and Applied Mathematics, on a salary of Rs. 250, has been approved for appointment at Dacca on a salary of Rs. 400 a month?

(*g*) Is it a fact that Mr. Nalini Mohan Bose, now lecturer in the Department of Applied Mathematics in the Calcutta University, on a salary of Rs. 250, has been approved for appointment at Dacca on a salary of Rs. 400 a month?

(*h*) Is it a fact that Dr. Ramesh Chandra Mazumdar, now lecturer in the Department of History in the Calcutta University, on the grade of Rs. 400—500, has been approved for appointment as University professor at Dacca on an initial salary of Rs. 600, with prospect of periodical increment up to Rs. 1,800 a month?

(*i*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to inquire and ascertain how many more University lecturers from Calcutta are intended to be taken away to Dacca by the offer of higher salaries and prospects of increments?

(*j*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what prospects, if not actual promises of increments, are being offered to persons selected or approved for appointments as University professors, readers or lecturers in the Dacca University?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) (*i*) The member's attention is invited to the notification by the Government of India in the Department of Education, No. 1462, dated the 1st December, 1920. This notification was republished by the Government of Bengal (see notification No. 1851 Edn., dated the 13th December, 1920). Mr. Philip Joseph Hartog, C.I.E., was appointed first Vice-Chancellor of Dacca University by the Goveror-General in Council in pursuance of section 49 of the Dacca University Act, 1920 (XVIII of 1920). The appointment is for five years in the first instance with the possibility of an extension for a further four or five years, provided that it will be open either to Mr. Hartog or to the Government of India to terminate the engagement after the first five years on giving not less than six months' notice. The emoluments of the appointment are a salary of Rs. 4,000 a month, with a rent-free house, travelling allowance as recommended by the Calcutta University Commission and a first class passage out to India and back to England on retirement. The post is not pensionable but a retiring allowance is provided by virtue of an arrangement, fixed by the Government of India, whereby Mr. Hartog contributes 5 per cent. of his salary for this purpose, the University contributing 10 per cent. of the said salary. Thus the total monthly payments to Mr. Hartog from funds placed by the local Government at the disposal of Dacca University amount to Rs. 4,400 a month exclusive of the value of a rent-free house and such amount as may be claimed in the matter of travelling allowance.

(*a*) (*ii*) In the terms of the Dacca University Act the principal administrative authorities of the Dacca University are to be the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar, the Librarian and the Treasurer. The Vice-Chancellor, informs me that none of these officers have as yet been appointed, and that it is hoped that it may be possible to secure a suitable

Treasurer to whom it will not be necessary to pay any emoluments. Th proposed initial pay for the Registrar is Rs. 750 a month. The salar will be incremental but the maximum to which it will rise has not ye been fixed.

(*a*) (*iii*), (*iv*), (*v*) and (*vi*) Two statements (Statements A and B compiled by the Vice-Chancellor, are laid on the table.

(*a*) (*vii*) (*1*) (*2*) (*3*) and (*4*) A statement (Statement C), compiled b the Vice-Chancellor, is laid on the table.

(*a*) (*vii*) (*5*) The member's attention is invited to the replies whic I have just made under (*a*) (*vii*) (*1*) and (*2*) above.

(*b*) The Vice-Chancellor informs me that the answer is in the affirma tive.

(*c*) The Vice-Chancellor informs me that the salary which has bee offered to, and accepted by, Dr. J. C. Ghosh is Rs. 800 a month, risin by increments of Rs. 50 to Rs. 1,800.

(*d*) I am given to understand that Dr. J. C. Ghosh was at one tim on the staff of the Calcutta University Science College. For informatio as to the conditions of Dr. Ghosh's service in that College the member r referred to the Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University, who was one of th members of the Selection Committee appointed in terms of section 50 (*1*) (*c*) of the Dacca University Act. The Vice-Chancellor, Dacca Univers ty, informs me that Dr. Ghosh was appointed on the advice of this com mittee.

(*e*) (*f*) (*g*) and (*h*) The Vice-Chancellor, Dacca University, inform me that the answer to these questions is in the affirmative. He has als explained that in certain cases the teachers, who were mostly part-time teachers in the University of Calcutta, applied through the Pre sident of the Postgraduate Councils and with a recommendation on hi part: that in all cases these teachers have resigned their posts with th assent of the authorities of Calcutta University: that the Dacca Uni versity post in each case involves the promotion of the teacher concerne ed to a position of higher grade and greater responsibility; that it is on account of the increased work and responsibility involved at Dacca that higher pay has been offered to each of the teachers selected for the staff of that University.

(*i*) The University of Dacca is not a Department of the Government of Bengal. It is a body, quite distinct from Government, incorporated by an Act of the Legislature and invested not only with certain functions but with a statutory obligation to perform them. In the terms of section 51 of the Dacca University Act, the Vice-Chancellor may, at any time after the passing of the Act with the previous approval of the Chancellor and subject to the provision of funds by the local Government or otherwise, take such action consistent, so far as may be with the provisions of this Act and the Statutes, as he may think necessary for the purpose of bringing the University into being, and for that purpose may

exercise any power which by this Act or Statutes is to be conferred on any officer or authority of the University. It is not the business of the local Government to make such inquiries the member suggests in this question.

(*j*) The member is referred to the statement (Statement A), which I have already laid on the table in reply to his questions (*a*) (*iii*) to (*vi*).

STATEMENT A

Referred to in the reply to starred questions XVIII (a) (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) and XVIII (j).

I.—Proposed scheme for the Teaching Staff of Dacca University.

	Professors.	Readers.	Lecturers	Assistants.	Demonstrators.	Total.
English Language Literature	2*	3	11	5	...	21
Mathematics	1	2	3	2	...	8
Philosophy	1	2	3	2	..	8
History	2*	1	2	1	...	
Politics	...	1	1	1	...	3
Political Economy ...	1*	1	2	1	...	5
Sanskrit and Bengali ...	1	2	3	1	...	7
Arabic and Islamic Studies	1	1	3	1	...	6
Persian and Urdu ...	...	1	2	1	...	4
Physics	1	2	1	...	5	9
Chemistry	2	1	2	...	6	11
Law	1	2	5	2	...	10
Education	1*	2*	3*	...	...	6
Physical Education ...	1	...	1	...	...	2
French and German ...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Statistics	...	1	...	...	...	...
Biology	...	1	...	...	...	...
Experimental Psychology	...	1	...	...	...	...
Total ...	15	25	42	17	11	110

* One Professorship in English and one Professorship in History, the Professorship in Political Economy and the Professorship of Education will remain vacant in 1921-22; the post of Reader in Education at present filled by the Principal of the Dacca Training College is honorary. The three Lectureships in Education will remain vacant in 1921-22 as the Training College will not be taken over in 1921-22.

The strength of the staff detailed above is not finally fixed; it is based on estimates made some months ago of the probable number of students likely to attend for the different subjects and it seems likely that more appointments will be required on the Scientific and fewer on the Arts side.

STATEMENT B

Referred to in the reply to starred questions XVIII (a) (iii), (v) and (vi).

II.—General Scale of remuneration for teachers and provosts—Dacca University.

Provost, Dacca Hall	Not yet settled.
„ Jagannath Hall ...	Rs. 200 (combined with the pay of a Readership in English—in all Rs 800).
„ Moslem Hall	Rs. 200 (combined with the pay of a Readership in History—in all Rs 800).
Scale of pay of Professors ...	Rs. 600—50—1,800.
„ „ Readers	„ 400—50—1,200.
„ „ Lecturers (excepting those in Law who will receive a lump sum of Rs. 1,000 for a three months' course ...	Rs 250—25—400.
Scale of pay of Demonstrators ...	„ 125—25—250.
„ „ Assistant	„ 100 (fixed).

STATEMENT C

Referred to in the reply to starred question XVIII (vii) (1), (2), (3) and (4),

List of persons already appointed to Dacca University Teaching Staff.

Subject.	Title of appointment	Teachers	Pay exclusive of contributions towards leave and pension where necessary
			Rs
English ...	Professors ...	1 To be left vacant for 1921-22.	
		2	1,100 (I E S increments)
	Readers ...	1 S N Bhadra (P. E. S) ...	700 (P. E. S increments)
		2 L M. Chatterjee (also Provost of Jagannath Hall).	800—50—1,400
		3 C L. Wrenn	850—50—1,200
	Lecturers ...	11 at Rs. 250—50—400 each (to be appointed)	2,750
	Assistants ...	5 at Rs. 100 each (to be appointed)	500

Subject.	Title of appointment.	Teachers	Pay exclusive of contributions towards leave and pension where necessary
			Rs
Mathematics ...	Professor ...	B M Sen (I E S) ...	900 (with I E S increments)
	Readers ...	1 Nalini Mohan Bose ...	400—50—1,200
		2	500 (with P. E. S increments)
	Lecturers ...	1	250—25—400
		2 at Rs 250—25—400 each (to be appointed)	500
	Assistants ...	2 at Rs. 100 each (to be appointed)	200
Philosophy ...	Professor ...	.....	900 (with I E S increments)
	Readers ...	1 S C. Roy	500—50—1,200
		2 Haridas Bhattacharyya ...	500—50—1,200
	Lecturers ...	3 at Rs 250 each	750 (one with P E S increments and two on 250—25—400)
	Assistants ...	2 at Rs 100 each (to be appointed)	200
History ...	Professors ...	1 Probably to be left vacant for 1921-22	
		2 Ramesh Ch Mazumdar (Indian History)	600—50—800
	Reader ...	1 A F Rahman (also Provost of ——).	800—50—1,400
	Lecturers ...	1	340
		1 at Rs 250—25—400 (to be appointed).	250
	Assistant ...	1 at Rs. 100 (to be appointed) ...	100
Politics ...	Reader ...	1 (to be appointed)	1,000—50—1,200
	Lecturer ...	1 (ditto)	250—25—400
	Assistant ...	1 (ditto)	100
Economics ...	Professor ...	1 (to be left vacant for 1921-22)	
	Reader ...	1 Acting Reader	400 (with P. E. S. increments).
	Lecturers ...	2 at Rs. 250—25—400 each (to be appointed)	500
	Assistant ...	1 (to be appointed)	100

Subject.	Title of appointment.	Teachers.	Pay exclusive of contributions towards leave and pension where necessary.
			Rs
Sanskrit and Bengali	Professor ...	Mahamahopadhayaya H P. Shastri	800 (fixed)
	Readers ...	1 Banamali Chakravarti (P. E. S.)	500 (with P E S increments).
		2 Srish Chandra Chakravarti (P E S.)	500 ditto
	Lecturers ...	1 Radhagovinda Basak (P E S.)	250 ditto
		2 lecturers at Rs. 250—25—400 each (to be appointed)	500
	Assistant ...	1	100
Arabic and Islamic Studies.	Professor ...	1 (to be appointed)	1,000—50—1,800
	Reader ...	1 (ditto)	600—50—1,200
	Lecturers ...	3 at Rs 250—25—400 (to be appointed)	750
	Assistant ...	1 (to be appointed) at Rs 100 ...	100
Persian and Urdu	Reader ...	1	420 (with P E S increments)
	Lecturers ...	2 at Rs. 250—25—400 (to be appointed)	500
	Assistant ...	1 at Rs. 100 (to be appointed) ...	100
Physics ...	Professor ...	.....	750
	Readers ...	1 Satyendranath Bose ...	400—50—1,200
		2 Acting Reader ...	500 (with P E S increments)
	Lecturer ...	1 (to be appointed)	250—25—400
	Demonstrators...	2 at Rs 125 each	250 (with P E S increments)
	Ditto ...	3 at Rs 125—25—250 each (to be appointed)	375
Chemistry ...	Professor and Head of Department.	1	2,200
	Professor ...	2 J C Ghosh	800—50—1,800
	Reader ...	1 (to be appointed)	800—50—1,200
	Lecturers ...	2 at Rs 250—25—400 each (to be appointed)	500
	Demonstrators...	6 at Rs. 125—25—250 each to be appointed).	750
Law ...	Professor ...	1 Dr. N. C. Sen Gupta ...	1,000—50—1,800
	Readers ...	1	500—50—1,200
		2 (to be appointed) at Rs 500 ...	500—50—1,200
	Lecturers ...	5 at Rs. 100 each (to be appointed)	500
	Assistants ...	2 at Rs. 100 each	200

Subject.	Title of appointment.	Teachers	Pay exclusive of contributions towards leave and pension where necessary
			Rs
Education ...	Professor ...	(To be left vacant at present)	
	Readers ...	1 M P West (Honorary)	
		2 P S Katti	700—50—1,200
	Lecturers ...	3 Not to appointed in 1921-22 as the Training College remains under Government	
Physical Education	Director ...	Mainwaring Holt	1,250—50—1,800
	Lecturer ...	(To be appointed)	250—25—400
French and German	Reader ...	(Ditto)	600—50 (maximum not fixed)
Statistics ...	Reader ...	E C Rhodes	750—50—1,200
Biology ...	Reader ...	(To be appointed)	500—50—1,200
Experimental Psychology ...	Reader ...	(Ditto)	750—50—1,200
		TOTAL ...	37,935—12—
		GRAND TOTAL ...	1,55,220

Grievances of Sub-Registrars as to their pay.

***XIX. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware that great discontent prevails amongst the Sub-Registrars of Bengal on account of their poor pay and prospects and house accommodation in the mufassal?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken or are proposed to be taken to remedy their grievances as suggested by the Sub-Registrars in the memorial submitted to His Excellency in August last through the Inspector-General of Registration?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) I refer the member to the statement I made on 15th March, 1921, in moving a demand for a grant under the head "9—Registration."

Externment order on Mr. C. R. Das.

***XX. Babu FANINDRALAL DE:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the order of externment passed on Mr. C. R. Das from Mymensingh was issued with the knowledge or sanction of the local Government.

(*ii*) if so, what were the grounds on which such order was based; and

(*iii*) if the order was issued without the knowledge or sanction of the Government, what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in regard to the officer who issued the order?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): (*i*) The order prohibiting Mr. C. R. Das from entering Mymensingh was issued under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, by the Additional District Magistrate, in exercise of the powers vested in him, without reference to Government. He cancelled the order, similarly without reference to Government, soon after it had been served on Mr. Das, and passed a fresh order prohibiting the latter from taking any part in public meetings within the town of Mymensingh. It is understood that Mr. Das had left Mymensingh before the fresh order could be served on him.

(*ii*) Notices had been circulated urging the public to meet Mr. Das in procession, and appeals had been issued to the students, quoting a letter from Mr. C. R. Das, urging them not to sit for the matriculation examination which was at that time in progress. In the opinion of the District Magistrate a breach of the peace was likely to result from the excitement aroused against those students who wished to continue at the examination.

(*iii*) Government does not propose to take any action.

Reduction of Police grant.

***XXI. Mr. S. R. DAS:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state what action will be necessary, if effect is given to the recent vote of this Council reducing the Police grant by Rs. 23 lakhs?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: If effect is given to the vote referred to as it stands, it will be necessary to abandon all new schemes, and immediately to reduce either the pay or the numbers of the Force, or both.

Mr. S. R. DAS: Would Government be prepared to maintain the Force at the strength and on the pay and terms of service proposed by them, when the Budget was submitted, until the Council has had further time to consider the matter?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: It would obviously be improper for Government to incur expenditure upon a scale which was inevitably and palpably in excess of the sum voted, and, should they do so, the audit authorities would most certainly, and properly, comment adversely upon their action. Moreover, if such an action was taken in the earlier months of the year, subsequent reductions would necessarily be still more drastic.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Secondary and primary schools.

1. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will he Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be leased to make a statement showing for each of the last ten years the umber of secondary and primary schools in the Presidency under (*i*) ublic, and (*ii*) private management and the average number of pupils n each class of institution according to management during the above eriod?

(*b*) What has been the percentage of schools in rural areas and towns n each of the last ten years?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that the fall in the price of jute has ad a retarding effect on the progress of primary education, particularly n the eastern districts of the Presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) A statement is laid on the able.

(*b*) Figures are not available.

(*c*) Yes. In times of economic prosperity it is natural that the umber of schools should increase. The reverse is also to be expected.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 1 (a).

Year.	Under Public Management.		Under Private Management.		Under Public Management		Under Private Management.	
	Number of Secondary Schools.	Number of Primary Schools.	Number of Secondary Schools.	Number of Primary Schools.	Average number of pupils in Secondary Schools.	Average number of pupils in Primary Schools.	Average number of pupils in Secondary Schools	Average number of pupils in Primary Schools.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10-11 ...	230	597	1,368	37,892	25,962	28,369	155,262	1,048,464
11-12 ...	146	1,584	2,171	33,602	22,556	74,096	265,625	1,060,660
12-13 ...	147	2,073	2,225	32,832	24,280	95,070	292,627	1,049,196
13-14 ...	147	2,595	2,323	31,913	25,124	120,292	323,783	1,005,351
4-15 ...	146	2,933	2,411	33,029	25,262	133,418	342,484	1,028,354
5-16 ...	148	3,017	2,440	37,393	25,108	135,067	345,092	1,136,328
6-17 ...	150	3,027	2,606	38,939	25,465	130,844	365,219	1,173,248
7-18 ...	151	3,046	2,635	41,065	24,744	127,955	372,347	1,210,879
8-19 ...	151	3,065	2,652	41,860	23,926	121,232	369,918	1,209,834
9-20 ...	146	3,102	2,654	43,138	22,424	120,555	362,596	1,208,664

Jail prisoners.

2. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the prisoners dying in jails are buried according to their religious customs;

(*ii*) whether the jail prisoners are allowed religious facilities and are dressed compatibly with their religious requirements?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim:) (*i*) In Calcutta jails and some district jails where Muhammadan Burial Associations exist, the dead bodies of Muhammadan prisoners are made over to these associations for disposal. In all other cases, the bodies are handed over to the local municipalities for disposal in accordance with the religious customs of the deceased prisoners.

(*ii*) The member is referred to the answer given to the starred question No. IV (*d*), (*e*) and (*f*) asked by Maulvi Fazlal Karim at the Council meeting of the 21st February last.

Director of Industries and his establishment.

3. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state—

(*i*) the qualifications, industrial and technical, of the present Director of Industries, Bengal, and each of his circle officers,

(*ii*) whether any Muhammadan has been appointed as a circle officer? If not, why not; and

(*iii*) the number of assistants in the establishment of the Industrial Department and how many of these are Muhammadans?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*i*) For the qualifications of the present Director of Industries and of the circle officers under him the member is referred to the answer to starred question No. III (*c*) and (*e*) asked by Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur.

(*ii*) No. Because none of the Muhammadan applicants for the posts of circle officers had adequate qualifications.

(*iii*) There are at present 70 clerks, of whom 7 are Muhammadans.

Polling stations of the several constituencies of the Bengal Legislative Council.

4. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to

state how many polling stations there were in each of the general constituencies during the last election?

(*b*) How many square miles on an average were served by a polling station in each of the said constituencies?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER:

Name of constituency.	Number of polling stations in the constituency	Average number of square miles served by a polling station
Calcutta North (Non-Muhammadan) ...	(Uncontested)	(There was no polling centre)
Calcutta North-West (Non-Muhammadan) ...	7	1·19
Calcutta East (Non Muhammadan)	7	1·6
Calcutta North Central (Non-Muhammadan) ...	7	1·5
Calcutta South (Non-Muhammadan)	4	1
Calcutta South Central (Non-Muhammadan) ...	6	1·8
Hooghly Municipal (Non-Muhammadan) ...	24	1·08
Howrah Municipal (Non-Muhammadan) ...	13	1·15
24 Parganas Municipal North (Non Muhammadan) ...	19	2·4
24 Parganas Municipal South (Non Muhammadan) ...	31	2·4
Dacca City (Non-Muhammadan)	7	85
Burdwan (Non-Muhammadan)	82	33
Birbhum (Non Muhammadan)	38	46
Bankura West (Non-Muhammadan)	38	50·5
Bankura East (Non-Muhammadan)	34	20·5
Midnapore North (Non-Muhammadan)	66	55·1
Midnapore South (Non Muhammadan)	51	29·4
Hooghly *cum* Howrah Rural (Non-Muhammadan) ...	84	19·71
24-Parganas Rural Central (Non Muhammadan) .	29	38·5
24 Parganas Rural South (Non Muhammadan) ...	39	32·8
24-Parganas Rural North (Non Muhammadan) ...	30	77·4
Nadia (Non-Muhammadan)	56	49·8
Murshidabad (Non-Muhammadan)	55	38
Jessore South (Non Muhammadan)	32	38·5
Jessore North (Non-Muhammadan)	40	42·2
Khulna (Non-Muhammadan)	31	67
Dacca Rural (Non-Muhammadan)	73	37·9
Mymensingh West (Non-Muhammadan) ...	50	45
Mymensingh East (Non-Muhammadan) ...	76	52
Faridpur North (Non Muhammadan)	38	28
Faridpur South (Non-Muhammadan)	24	55
Bakarganj North (Non-Muhammadan)	77	27·11
Bakarganj South (Non-Muhammadan)	79	32·32
Chittagong (Non-Muhammadan)	70	36
Tippera (Non-Muhammadan)	98	25
Noakhali (Non-Muhammadan)	74	22·2
Rajshahi (Non-Muhammadan)	32	80·9
Dinajpur (Non-Muhammadan)	34	116
Rangpur (Non-Muhammadan)	109	32
Bogra *cum* Pabna (Non-Muhammadan)	65	49·1

Name of constituency.	Number of polling stations in the constituency.	Average number of square miles served by a polling station
Malda (Non-Muhammadan)	15	126
Jalpaiguri (Non-Muhammadan)	20	400
Calcutta North (Muhammadan)	5	1
Calcutta South (Muhammadan)	4	3
Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (Muhammadan) ...	37	1 14
Barrackpore Municipal (Muhammadan)	15	3 08
24-Parganas Municipal (Muhammadan)	16	4 7
Dacca City (Muhammadan)	7	·85
Burdwan Division North (Muhammadan) ...	182	38 81
Burdwan Division South (Muhammadan) ...	201	34 03
24-Parganas Rural (Muhammadan)	59	80
Nadia (Muhammadan)	56	49 8
Murshidabad (Muhammadan)	53	40
Jessore North (Muhammadan)	26	40
Jessore South (Muhammadan)	46	40 9
Khulna (Muhammadan)	30	60 2
Dacca West Rural (Muhammadan)	33	27 4
Dacca East Rural (Muhammadan)	40	46 8
Mymensingh West (Muhammadan)	50	45
Mymensingh East (Muhammadan)	76	52
Faridpur North (Muhammadan)	38	28 5
Faridpur South (Muhammadan)	24	55
Bakarganj North (Muhammadan)	43	35 20
Bakarganj West (Muhammadan)	73	22 01
Bakarganj South (Muhammadan)	40	38 01
Chittagong (Muhammadan)	70	36
Tippera (Muhammadan)	98	25
Noakhali (Muhammadan)	74	22 2
Rajshahi South (Muhammadan)	15	60 5
Rajshahi North (Muhammadan)	29	58 1
Dinajpur (Muhammadan)	34	116
Rangpur West (Muhammadan)	65	27 5
Rangpur East (Muhammadan)	44	38 6
Bogra (Muhammadan)	32	42 5
Pabna (Muhammadan)	33	55 7
Malda *cum* Jalpaiguri (Muhammadan)	35	113

Industrial development of Bengal.

5. **Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state what steps have been taken to give effect to Mr. Swan's recommendations regarding the industrial development of Bengal?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken or what steps it is proposed to take towards the organisation of the provincial Department of Industries on the lines of the recommendations of the Industries Commission?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) and (*b*) Mr Swan's report was written before the appointment of the Indian Industrial Commission and has been superseded by their report. A provincial Department of Industries has been organised on the lines recommended by the Commission. An account of its activities will be found in the Report* on the administration of the Department up to December, 1919, a copy of which is laid on the library table.

Expenditure on medical relief and primary education by the 24-Parganas District Board.

6. **Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it was a fact that of all the District Boards the 24-Parganas District Board spent the least percentage of their income on medical relief and primary education (both the heads being taken together) in the year 1916-17?

(*b*) If not, which of the other District Boards spent on both these heads a lesser percentage of their income in that year?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state if it was a fact that of all the District Boards the 24-Parganas District Board spent the least percentage of their income on medical relief and primary education (both the heads being taken together) in the year 1917-18?

(*d*) If not, what other District Board or Boards spent a lesser percentage of their income on both these heads in that year?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state if it was a fact that of all the other District Boards (except that of Burdwan), the 24-Parganas District Board spent the least percentage of their income on medical relief and primary education (both the heads being taken together) in the year 1918-19.

(*f*) If not, which of the other District Boards (except Burdwan) spent a lesser percentage on those heads in that year?

(*g*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state if it was a fact that of all the other District Boards (except Burdwan), the 24-Parganas District Board spent the least percentage of their income on primary education in the year 1919-20?

(*h*) If not, which of the other District Boards (except Burdwan) spent a lesser percentage?

*Not printed in these Proceedings

(*i*) If the answers to (*a*), (*c*), (*e*) and (*g*) be in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of calling the attention of the 24-Parganas District Board to this?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) This does not arise.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Rajshahi, Burdwan and Jessore.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) This does not arise.

(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) This does not arise.

(*i*) The answer is in the affirmative.

Number of sales of occupancy holdings.

7. Maulvi Muhammad RAFIQUE UDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing separately the number of sales of occupancy buildings under the following heads in Bengal within the last ten years, viz.:—

(*a*) voluntary sales by registered *kabalas;*

(*b*) sales in execution of mortgage decrees; and

(*c*) sales in execution of money decrees?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The information cannot be supplied. Inquiries have been made from the Inspector-General of Registration and from District Judges. Replies received show that the information required is not available from any register or returns, but would have to be collected from records and documents. This would require a special additional staff which the Government would not be justified in appointing

Questions regarding the interpretation of the Bengal electoral rules.

8. Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: (*a*) With reference to the Bengal electoral rules, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether any question arose regarding the interpretation of any rules, which had to be referred for decision to the Governor?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to make a statement of such questions together with the decisions made by the Governor?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) One such question was referred for decision to the Governor.

(*b*) A copy of the reference, together with the Governor's decision, is placed on the table.

The reference mentioned in the reply to unstarred question No. 8 (b).

Dated Calcutta, the 26th August, 1920.

From—Mr. J. G. Dunlop, I.C.S.,

To—The Additional Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Appointment (Reforms) Department.

I have the honour to invite a reference to clause 4 of Schedule II to the Bengal electoral rules prescribing the qualifications of electors for a Calcutta constituency of the Bengal Legislative Council.

Calcutta has been formed into eight constituencies, six non-Muhammadan and two Muhammadan, and whereas residence in Calcutta is a necessary qualification of an elector for any of these constituencies, clause 4, as worded, appears to afford no criterion for determining for which constituency a person, otherwise qualified is entitled to be registered as an elector.

As I apprehend, as revising authority for the Calcutta North non-Muhammadan constituency, that application may be made before me to transfer to the electoral roll of that constituency the name of a person, duly qualified, from the electoral roll of another Calcutta non-Muhammadan constituency, after deletion from the latter, I beg to request that under rule 46 of the Bengal electoral rules the correct interpretation of clause 4 of Schedule II in this matter may be given, and that it may be communicated to me at an early date.

No. 930 A.R.-D., dated Darjeeling, the 30th August, 1920.

From—H. E. Spry, Esq., I.C.S., Additional Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Appointment (Reforms) Department,

To—Mr. J. G. Dunlop, I.C.S.

I am directed to refer to your letter of the 26th instant, and to say that His Excellency the Governor is pleased, under rule 46 of the Bengal electoral rules, to direct that rule 4 of Schedule II to the rules shall be interpreted as if the words "or a place of business within the constituency" were substituted for the words "in Calcutta as defined under section 3 (7) of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899."

I am to add that the last proviso of rule 7 (*1*) by which no person shall be entitled to have his name registered in the electoral roll of more than one general constituency should be borne in mind in this connection.

Bengal Secretariat establishments.

9. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing grade by grade the number of clerks in the Upper Division and also in the Lower Division and the pay attached to them in the several departments of the Bengal Secretariat including the

Legislative Department, as it stood before the introduction of the Reforms and after?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether there is a Registrar in each Department as now constituted?

(*c*) What is the present pay of a Registrar and what are his duties?

(*d*) What is the number of Assistant Secretaries in the Secretariat and what pay is fixed for these posts?

(*e*) What are the principles on which recruitment to these posts are made?

(*f*) Are these posts open to Secretariat office assistants?

(*g*) If so, are the claims of any assistant or assistants considered when making these appointments?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): (*a*) A statement is laid on the table. This statement does not show the *ad interim* allowance, as it is drawn at different rates by different assistants and as it is only a temporary allowance pending the report of the Salaries' Committee.

(*b*) With the exception of the new Agriculture and Industries Department there is a Registrar in each Department as now constituted.

(*c*) The present pay of a Registrar in the Civil Secretariat is Rs. 600—$\frac{50}{1}$—750. The pay of the Registrar in the Public Works Department is Rs. 475—$\frac{20}{1}$—575 *plus* a duty allowance of Rs. 100 and free quarters as caretaker of Writers' Buildings. The pay of the Registrar, Legislative Department, is Rs. 400—$\frac{20}{1}$—500, but this post will be abolished as soon as the present incumbent (now on leave) retires. A new post, Registrar of the Legislative Council, has been created in consequence of the Reforms, on a pay of Rs. 600—30—750.

The duties of the Registrars are shown in the attached statement

(*d*) The sanctioned number is six. The pay of the post is not fixed, but it must not exceed Rs. 800 per mensem. There are at present three Assistant Secretaries, who draw their grade pay *plus* Rs. 100 per mensem duty allowance.

(*e*) The recruitment may be made from (1) the members of the Bengal Civil Service, (2) the members of the Secretariat staff who have shown special ability and are comparatively young, and (3) outside the two sources mentioned above.

(*f*) Yes, *vide* (*e*) above.

(*g*) There is no question of any claims in connection with these appointments, and each department selects the person who seems best fitted for the post.

Statement referred to in the answer to unstarred question No. 9 (c).

Duties of the Registrars.

The Registrar is responsible for the proper management, efficiency, discipline and routine of the office, and for the prompt despatch of work. His duties are—

(1) To see that the Rules of Business and the Secretariat Instructions are properly observed.

(2) To keep the Attendance Register, to see that each assistant arrives in office at 10-30 A.M., commences work promptly and does not leave before 5 P.M., or, if his work is not up to date, until permission is granted by the Head Assistant.

(3) To supervise constantly the work in the office and to inspect the work of each assistant, typist, etc., at least once a day by going round the the office in order to see that there is no delay in the disposal of cases, in copying and despatch, in referencing and in recording, etc., that no case from another Department is unduly delayed in the Department, and that no case is unduly delayed in another Department; that the work is properly arranged and distributed, and to advice in cases of difficulty.

(4) To see daily that the office is clean and tidy, that the files in the Reference Section are properly arranged in the racks, that the reminder cases are kept in proper order, and generally that the work is being done without confusion.

(5) To see that the Secretaries' rooms are clean and tidy, properly supplied with stationery, etc., and that their books of reference are kept properly up to date, and to arrange for the supply of newspapers for the Secretaries.

(6) To examine the case-books showing the state of the work in the hands of the assistants when inspecting the tables, and to examine the pending lists with a view to accelerating the progress of cases.

(7) To see that no registers or departmental returns not prescribed by the Rules of Business or Secretariat Instructions are maintained, and that no departure from the Rules of Business or Secretariat Instructions is made without the sanction of the Under-Secretary or Assistant Secretary, or, without the sanction of all the Secretaries when this is required.

(8) To keep a confidential character book of the different assistants, typists etc., for the entry of any remarks which the gazetted officers may order should be entered, and to bring to the notice of the Under-Secretary or Assistant Secretary any misdemeanour or bad work done by any assistant or typist deserving notice. All breeches of discipline, errors of procedure, delay, etc., must be promptly investigated by the Registrar, who should deal with the assistant or assistants in fault directly and personally, and, should check any tendency to note at length on such matters or to introduce irrelevant questions. He also shall keep up the character rolls of assistants.

(9) To deal with office appointments, suspensions and dismissals, leave and promotions of assistants and typists; also with the question of the accommodation of assistants in Darjeeling. All these matters must be submitted to the Under-Secretary or Assistant Secretary.

(10) To submit every year by the 15th January at the latest all cases of assistants in the Department who will attain the age of 55, or whose extension of service after that age will expire, during the next official year, for consideration and orders whether their services should be further retained or not.

(11) To supervise the training of probationers in the office. Head Assistants are directly responsible for such training, but the Registrar is required to satisfy himself that it is being properly given.

(12) To deal with the appointment, leave and promotion of menial servants, and to arrange for the supply of liveries to jamadars, chaprasis and peons.

(13) To attend to the need of the office in respect of forms, stationery and articles of furniture. To check the stock of stationery, etc., quarterly and to see that there is no waste. The Registrar has power to pass bills for contingent expenditure up to Rs. 20

(14) To see that all books received from the library are duly returned.

(15) To exercise a careful supervision over recording and indexing, in the case of A Proceedings, to examine carefully the editing of the notes, and in the case of B Proceedings to see that the year for their destruction is duly and properly marked on the stiff cover.

(16) To make a quarterly written inspection of each and every branch of the office to be put up for orders before the Under-Secretary or Assistant-Secretary.

(17) To dispose of such routine correspondence as may be delegated to him under the written orders of the Secretary, provided that weekly printed tables showing the orders so passed shall be submitted to the Under-Secretary or Assistant Secretary before the expiration of the week following that in which the orders were passed.

The Registrar, Local Self-Government and Education Department, is in charge of, and responsible for, the library, which he inspects quarterly in the course of the usual office inspection.

The Registrar, Finance Department, is in charge of the Accounts Branch which he inspects daily.

The Registrar, Public Works Department, is in charge of—

(a) Writer's Buildings.

(b) Cash and pay branch, Public Works Department.

(c) The record-room, Public Works Department, which is inspected daily. He is responsible for the state of the records in the Record-room

The duties of the Registrar of the Bengal Legislative Council are mainly in connection with the work of the Council. He also superintends the working of the Department and performs the duties formerly performed by the Registrar Legislative Department, in the latter respect

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 9 (a), showing grade by grade the number of clerks in the Upper Division and also in the Lower Division and the pay attached to them in the several departments of the Bengal Secretariat, including the Legislative Department, as it stood before the introduction of the Reforms and after.

Department	BEFORE REFORMS. UPPER DIVISION. Class I, Rs. 400.	Class II, Rs. 300.	Class III, Rs. 250.	Class IV, Rs. 200.	Class V, Rs. 150.	Class VI, Rs. 125
Judicial, Political and Appointment.	3	4	1	6	6	4
Revenue	1	2	2	4	3	2
General and Municipal.	1	2	2	4	2	2
Financial, Medical and Accounts	2	3	3	5	3	5
1 Accountant (Rs. 150—10—200).	...	...	...	...	...	.
1 Treasurer (Rs. 150—10—200).	...	...	...	...	..	..
Public Works	2	3	3	6	5	3

Department.	AFTER REFORMS. UPPER DIVISION. Class I, Rs. 400.	Class II, Rs. 300.	Class III, Rs. 250.	Class IV, Rs. 200.	Class V, Rs. 150.	Class VI, Rs. 125
Judicial, Political and Appointment	3	4	1	6	6	4
Revenue and Agriculture	1	2	2	4	3	3
Local Self-Government and Education Department.	1	2	2	4	4	2
Financial, Marine, Commerce and Accounts.	2	3	3	5	3	6
1 Accountant (Rs. 150—10—200).	..	...			.	
1 Treasurer (Rs. 150—10—200).	..				.	
Public Works and Irrigation Departments	2	3	3	6	3	2

LOWER DIVISION.
Rs. 50—3—125.

Judicial, Political and Appointment ...	40	Appointments.
Revenue ...	30	Ditto.
General and Municipal	26	Ditto.
Financial Medical and Accounts ...	44	Ditto.
Public Works ...	46	Ditto

LOWER DIVISION.
Rs. 50—3—125

Judicial, Political and Appointment ...	40	Appointments.
Revenue and Agriculture ...	34	Ditto.
Local Self Government and Education Department	32	Ditto.
Financial, Marine, Commercial and Accounts ...	44	Ditto.
Public Works Department and Irrigation	40	Ditto.

List of Assistants in the Legislative Department of the Bengal Secretariat, before and after the introduction of the Reforms.

UPPER DIVISION.		UPPER DIVISION.	
	Rs.		Rs
1 Head Assistant D A	250—20—350 100—0—0	1 Legal Assistant	... 400—20—500
1 Legal Assistant	... 250—15—400	1 Superintendent	... 200—10—300
1 Council Reporter and Assistant	... 200—10—300		
1 Superintendent	... 150—10—200		

LOWER DIVISION.		LOWER DIVISION.	
	Rs		Rs.
1 Assistant ...	... 100—5—125	9 Assistants	... 50—3—125
1 Ditto ...	... 75—5—100		
1 Ditto ...	... 60—3—75		
2 Ditto ...	... 50—2—60		
2 Ditto ...	... 40—2—50		

Police Courts.

10. Colonel A. J. PUGH: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware of the unsatisfactory way in which the work of the Police Courts is carried on?

(*b*) Do the Government contemplate taking any steps to improve the efficiency of the Courts with a view to the more expeditious hearing and disposal of cases?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The question of delay in the disposal of cases in the Calcutta Police Courts is under investigation.

Colonel A. J. PUGH: Is the Calcutta Police Court subject to the supervision of the Calcutta High Court?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: Yes.

Colonel A. J. PUGH: When was the Court last inspected by a Judge of the High Court?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: That I am unable to say.

Particulars with regard to the general election of members.

11. Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: With reference to the last general election of members to the Bengal Legislative Council,

will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the following:—

(*1*) name of each constituency;

(*2*) number of voters estimated for each constituency by the Franchise Committee;

(*3*) number of actual voters for each constituency, as entered in the lists prepared by the Government;

(*4*) number of voters in each constituency who actually recorded their votes;

(*5*) number of candidates for election in each constituency and the amount of expenses incurred by each of them?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*1*), (*2*) and (*3*) The member is referred to the answer given to unstarred question No. 39, put by Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri at the meeting of the Council of the 7th February last. For the constituencies not referred to in that answer no estimate of electors was made by the Franchise Committee. The number of actual voters is given in the statement furnished with reference to clause (*4*).

(*4*) and first part of (*5*) A statement giving the information required is placed on the table.

(*5*) In regard to the amount of the election expenses incurred by each candidate, the information was lodged with returning officers and will have to be collected from them. A statement will be laid on the table at a subsequent meeting.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 11 (4) and (5).

Name and nature of constituency.	Number of candidates nominated	Number of electors who recorded their votes
Calcutta North (Non-Muhammadan) Urban ...	1	...
Calcutta North-West ,, ,, ...	2	953
Calcutta East ,, ,, ...	2	1,713
Calcutta North Central ,, ,, ...	2	761
Calcutta South Central ,, ,, ...	4	802
Calcutta South ,, ,, ...	2	1,063
Hooghly Municipal ,, ,, ...	2	3,956
Howrah Municipal ,, ,, ...	1	...
24-Parganas Municipal North ,, ,, ...	1	...
24-Parganas Municipal South ,, ,, ...	2	7,050
Dacca City ,, ,, ...	5	921
Burdwan (Non-Muhammadan) Rural	5	7,871
Birbhum ,, ,, ...	10	9,085
Bankura West (Non-Muhammadan) Rural	6	4,052
Bankura East ,, ,, ...	4	3,801

Name and nature of constituency.	Number of candidates nominated.	Number of electors who recorded their votes.
Midnapore North (Non Muhammadan) Rural ...	2	7,156
Midnapore South ,, ,, ...	16	5,601
Hooghly *cum* Howrah ,, ,, ...	5	8,814
24-Parganas Rural Central (Non-Muhammadan) ...	4	2,042
24-Parganas Rural South ,, ...	3	3,978
24-Parganas Rural North ,, ...	3	4,172
Nadia (Non-Muhammadan) Rural	2	8,003
Murshidabad (Non-Muhammadan) Rural	5	8,858
Jessore South ,, ,, ...	2	5,357
Jessore North ,, ,, ...	1	...
Khulna ,, ,, ...	4	10,042
Dacca Rural ,, ,, ...	5	3,661
Mymensingh West (Non-Muhammadan) Rural ...	1	...
Mymensingh East (Non-Muhammadan) Rural ...	6	4,602
Faridpur North (Non-Muhammadan) Rural ...	4	3,909
Faridpur South ,, ,, ...	6	5,532
Bakarganj North ,, ,, ...	6	3,019
Bakarganj South ,, ,, ...	3	6,476
Chittagong ,, ,, ...	3	1,616
Tippera ,, ,, ...	1	...
Noakhali ,, ,, ...	2	1916
Rajshahi ,, ,, ...	3	2,726
Dinajpur ,, ,, ...	2	5,162
Rangpur ,, ,, ...	6	10,921
Bogra *cum* Pabna ,, ,, ...	4	4,393
Malda ,, ,, ...	2	3,191
Jalpaiguri ,, ,, ...	3	3,455
Calcutta North Muhammadan Urban ,, ...	5	66
Calcutta South ,, ...	7	274
Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal Muhammadan Urban ...	6	1,238
Barrackpore Municipal Muhammadan Urban ...	6	534
24-Parganas Municipal Muhammadan Urban ...	3	72
Dacca City Muhammadan Urban	...	...
Burdwan Division North Muhammadan Urban ...	6	3,069
Burdwan Division South ,, ,, ...	8	2,453
24-Parganas Muhammadan Rural	6	2,005
Nadia ,, ,, ...	5	5,131
Murshidabad ,, ,, ...	3	4,691
Jessore North ,, ,, ...	2	1,579
Jessore South ,, ,, ...	4	3,079
Khulna ,, ,, ...	3	2,311
Dacca West ,, ,, ...	...	...
Dacca East ,, ,, ...	2	1,108
Mymensingh West ,, ,, ...	9	4,834
Mymensingh East ,, ,, ...	6	4,336
Faridpur North ,, ...	1	...
Faridpur South ,, ...	5	4,098

Name and nature of constituency.	Number of candidates nominated.	Number of electors who recorded their votes
Bakarganj North Muhammadan Rural	1	...
Bakarganj West ,, ,, ...	7	6,007
Bakarganj South ,, ,, ...	2	2,025
Chittagong ,, ,, ...	4	2,072
Tippera ,, ,, ...	1	...
Noakhali ,, ,, ...	7	4,542
Rajshahi South ,, ,, ...	3	3,148
Rajshahi North ,, ,, ...	2	4,736
Dinajpur ,, ,, ...	1	...
Rangpur West ,, ,, ...	3	9,544
Rangpur East ,, ,, ...	2	4,460
Bogra ,, ,, ...	4	4,811
Pabna ,, ,, ...	2	1,703
Malda *cum* Jalpaiguri ,, ...	4	4,552

Name and nature of constituency.	Number of candidates nominated.	Number of voters who recorded their votes	Number of voters as per Southborough Committee's estimate.*	Number of voters on electoral roll
Presidency and Burdwan European	8	1,692	.....	3,442
Dacca and Chittagong, European	1	...	.....	216
Rajshahi, European	1	...	.....	348
Anglo-Indian	3	791	.....	2,901
Burdwan Landholders ...	2	77	.....	89
Presidency Landholders ...	1	...	.....	138
Dacca Landholders	1	...	.....	213
Chittagong Landholders ...	1	...	.....	95
Rajshahi Landholders ...	2	168	.....	202
Calcutta University ...	3	4,084	.....	6,144
Bengal Chamber of Commerce ...	6	...	.....	218
Indian Jute Mills Association ...	2	...	.....	47
Indian Tea Association ...	1	...	.....	366
Indian Mining Association ...	1	...	.....	125
Calcutta Trades Association ...	1	..	.....	72
Bengal National Chamber of Commerce	4	140	.....	147
Bengal Marwari Association ...	1	...	.....	140
Bengal Mahajan Sabha ...	1	...	.....	201

Salary slips to Munsifs.

12. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether salary slips for Rs. 300 were issued to certain Munsifs in October last, in spite of their confirmation, solely on the

* The Southborough Committee did not give any estimate of voters for these constituencies.

ground that they could not complete two years of actual service before the date of their confirmation; and if so, what is the number of such Munsifs and what are their names;

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that some of these officers were confirmed four years after the date of getting their first officiating appointment; and

(*iii*) whether the breaks in the service of all these officers were due to no fault of their own, but to the fact that as a result of the mode of appointment in vogue to the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial) an officer works for a short time and then sits idle for some time?

(*b*) Is it in contemplation to take into consideration the cases of these officers and to issue slips for Rs. 350 to them with effect from the date of their confirmation?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) (*i*) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part the list is laid on the table.

(*ii*) The period of officiating appointment after which officers are generally confirmed ranges from one to three years, but it is probable that in the case of some officers, confirmation took place four years after the first officiating appointment.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*b*) No. The salaries of the members of the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial) (Sub-Judges and Munsifs) under the time-scale were fixed according to the length of actual service rendered by each officer.

List of Munsifs to whom salary slips for Rs. 300 were issued under the time-scale, referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 12 (a) (i).

1. Babu Amulya Kumar Guha.
2. Babu Rajani Kanta Chaudhuri.
3. Babu Hiran Chandra Mitra.
4. Babu Charu Chandra Basu.
5. Babu Pratap Chandra Sen Gupta.
6. Babu Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee.
7. Babu Jagat Nath Basu Roy.
8. Babu Benoy Bhusan Sen.
9. Maulvi Muhammad Abul Ahsan.
10. Babu Keshab Chandra Sen.
11. Babu Basanta Bihary Mukerjee.
12. Babu Bijanlal Mukerjee.

Munsifs at Bhanga, Gopalganj and Madaripur.

13. Babu BHISHMADEV DAS: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether there is any proposal before the Government or the Hon'ble the High Court for the removal of the Munsifi from Bhanga;

(*ii*) whether any such abolition will be effected before the establishment of the Munsifi at Gopalganj; and

(*iii*) whether they are considering the desirability of removing one Munsif's Court from Bhanga and another from Madaripur to Gopalganj at an early date?

(*b*) Whether Government are prepared to consider any offer of temporary accommodation for the Munsif's Courts and quarters at Gopalganj, if made by the public there?

(*c*) What is the cause of the unusual delay in preparing plans and estimates of the buildings for the proposed Munsifi at Gopalganj?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) There is no such proposal at present before the Government. But the proposal is under consideration of the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court.

(*iii*) Yes. This has been decided in consultation with the High Court, but the Gopalganj Munsifi cannot be opened till suitable buildings are available.

(*b*) If suitable court and residential buildings are offered by the public on moderate rent, Government would be prepared to consider the offer.

(*c*) The delay in preparing the plan and estimate is due to the difficulty of settling the price of the land to be acquired. It is understood that these have now been prepared by local officers and will be submitted to Government shortly.

Bankshall Street Police Court building.

14. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware that the Southern Division Police Court building at 2, Bankshall Street, is dark, ill-ventilated, insanitary, and unsuitable for court purposes and is also unsafe?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether there is any proposal for demolishing the Bankshall Street Police Court building?

(*c*) If so, when do the Government intend to demolish the same?

(*d*) Is there any scheme for construction of a new building at 2, Bankshall Street, for accommodation of the Southern Division Police Court of Calcutta?

(*e*) If so, has any plan and estimate been prepared? Will the Government be pleased to lay a copy of the same on the table?

(*f*) Has sanction been accorded to any plan and estimate and has any provision been made for the same? If so, what is the provision?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) Government propose to demolish the existing building and to erect a new one in its place. It cannot be definitely stated when the demolition will take place.

(*e*) and (*f*) No plans and estimates have yet been prepared and no provision has therefore been made in the Budget. A sum of Rs. 24,000 has however, been shown in the Budget for hiring a house for the accommodation of the courts before demolition is taken in hand.

Amount spent on the Juvenile Court.

15. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state what sum—

(*i*) recurring; and

(*ii*) non-recurring;

was spent, during the last five years, on the Juvenile Court in Lower Circular Road in Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: The recurring expenditure incurred on the Juvenile Court and the House of Detention during the last five years was as follows:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
1915-16	10,583	15	7
1916-17	10,193	4	2
1917-18	13,730	11	7
1918-19	13,419	1	6
1919-20	17,926	12	3

No non-recurring expenditure was incurred during these years.

Budget provision for a new Motor Car Court in Calcutta.

16. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state what provision has been made in the Budget for 1921-22 for a new Motor Car Court in Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: No provision has as yet been made for this in the next year's budget. The matter is still under consideration.

Alleged utilization of the services of certain professors of the Calcutta University for the Dacca University.

17. Babu NALINI NATH ROY: Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware that the Dacca University authorities have availed themselves of the services of some of the professors of the Calcutta University without the permission of the Governing Body of the latter?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I have received no complaint from the Calcutta University. The attention of the member is invited to section 50 (*1*) (*c*) of the Dacca University Act, No. XVIII of 1920, wherein it is provided that at any time after the passing of this Act and until such time as the authorities of the University shall have been duly constituted, teachers of the University shall be appointed by the Governor of Bengal after considering the recommendations of an Advisory Committee consisting of the Vice-Chancellor, the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, and such other person or persons, if any, as the Governor of Bengal thinks fit to associate with them.

Any appointments which the Chancellor of the Dacca University may have made under the authority conferred on him by the section of the Act above quoted, have presumably been made after considering the recommendations of the Committee of which the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University is a member.

The attention of the member is also invited to section 39 of the Dacca University Act, in which it is provded that if any question arises whether any person has been duly elected or appointed as, or is entitled to be, a member of any authority or other body of the University, the matter shall be referred to the Chancellor whose decision thereon shall be final.

Provincial Medical Service and its disappointment at the revised scale of pay.

18. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MAITRA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether any further represenation has been made by the members of the Provincial Medical Service, through the President of then Association expressing their great disappointment at the revised scale of pay?

(*b*) If so, do the Government propose to take any action on their representation?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The revised scale of pay was fixed after careful consideration and Government do not propose to reconsider the matter at present.

Revised scale of pay for Assistant Surgeons.

19. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MAITRA: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble t Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government awa that the revised scale of pay sanctioned for the Assistant Surgeons h been felt by them to be unsatisfactory and that they in a body pass resolutions at a meeting of the Indian Provincial Medical Servi Associations held in February last praying for further improvements their scale of pay?

(*b*) Do the Government intend taking any further steps regardi their pay?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The nisw is in the affirmative except that the meeting was held in January a not in February.

(*b*) The member is referred to the reply given to unstarred questi No. 18.

Discontinuance of certain traffic services by private initiative durir tramway strike.

20. Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Will the Hon'b the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state t reasons which have induced the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, prohibit the continuance of the motor-bus and other subsidiary traffic se vices, which were introduced by private initiative to meet the situati created by the recent tramway strike?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: During the tramway stri temporary and special permission was given for lorries to ply for hi with makeshift sitting accommodation When the strike was over, th permission was withdrawn in respect of all lorries which did not confor to the rules laid down under the Motor Vehicles Act for motor omnibus used for the conveyance of passengers. All omnibuses which are co structed in conformity with the regulations are licensed to ply for hire

Recommendations of the Wordsworth Committee.

21. Maulvi MUHAMMAD RAFIQUE UDDIN KHAN: (*a*) Will th Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education kindl lay on the table the recommendations of the Wordsworth Committee?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister kindly say from what date th recommendations of the Wordsworth Committee will be given effect to

(*c*) Is it the intention of Government to give any *ad-interim* allowanc before the recommendations of the Wordsworth Committee to the teacher of the Government schools?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister kindly say from what date?

(*e*) Is it a fact that it is the intention that the teachers will share the special grant ear-marked for improvement of secondary school teachers' pay?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the figures under different heads of teachers' pay, cost of building and cost of inspection, specifying travelling allowances particularly?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) The report of the Committee is being considered by Government. It is therefore not in the public interest to lay it on the table.

(*b*) Government are not in a position to make any definite pronouncement on the subject.

(*c*) The Committee's report includes a recommendation for an *ad-interim* allowance in the event of abnormal delay in putting into operation the main recommendations. Government propose to act upon this recommendation in the event stated.

(*d*) The question does not arise.

(*e*) The question is not understood. There is no new grant in the 1921-22 Budget for the improvement of the pay of secondary school teachers as such.

(*f*) The question is not explicit but reference is invited to the reports submitted annually to Government by the Director of Public Instruction.

Subordinate Services Reorganisation Committee.

22. Maulvi MUHAMMAD RAFIQUE UDDIN KHAN: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware that at the last Government school teacher's conference a resolution was passed expressing discontent at the constitution of the Subordinate Services Reorganisation Committee?

(*b*) Is it a fact that none of the teachers were appointed to serve on the Committee?

(*c*) Are the Government proposing to take any action in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The statement is correct. A member of the Subordinate Service serving in a college was, however, included in the Committee

(*c*) The report of the Committee is now being considered by Government.

Murders and dacoities in Basirhat subdivision.

23. Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state how many murders,

dacoities, and burglaries were committed, and how many of them were detected within the subdivision of Basirhat in the district of the 24-Parganas during the term of office of the present Deputy Superintendent of Police in charge of the subdivision?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the answer to unstarred question No. 23.

	Committed.	Detected.
Murders	... 22 (*a*)	8
Dacoities	... 2 (*b*)	1
Burglaries	... 663 (*c*)	33

(*a*) Two of these cases are still under police investigation.

(*b*) Seven reported. One true, one still under police investigation, and five were found on enquiry to come under less serious sections of the Penal Code.

(*c*) Enquiry was refused in 165 cases.

Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI: Is it not necessary in view of such a heavy list of serious crimes to remove the officer there and place the subdivision under a better and more efficient man?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I should certainly not commit myself to an answer to that question without further inquiry.

Taxes for supplying uniforms to chaukidars and dafadars.

24. Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that taxes are levied, every alternate year, from chaukidari unions for supplying uniforms to all the chaukidars and dafadars, but the uniforms are given only to those who require them?

(*b*) If so, how is the surplus money dealt with?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of putting a stop to the levying of such taxes until the surplus deposit is exhausted?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) No separate tax is levied in respect of the cost of chaukidar's uniforms. The estimated annual cost of uniforms, based on the price of the articles supplied and the period for which they last, forms part of the budget estimate of the total requirements, to meet which the panchayats assess the annual chaukidari tax. Uniforms are supplied every two years.

(*b*) The collecting panchayats pay, by quarterly instalments from their collections, the amounts required to pay for the uniforms. An account of the uniform fund is kept by the District Magistrate. As the amount assessed is based on the actual cost of the uniforms required, no surplus usually accrues. The rules on the subject are 53 and 205 to 220 of the Chaukidari Manual.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

Motor-accidents to passengers getting in or coming out of tram cars.

25. Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department aware that a very large number of motor accidents take place when passengers alight from or board tram cars by the sudden onrush of a motor car vehicle from behind?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of issuing orders to the owners and drivers of all such vehicles not to pass by the left side of tram cars while the latter are standing still?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) Inquiry does not show that the number of accidents that take place in this way is large.

(*b*) Government do not consider it necessary to issue such an order, as no hard and fast rule can govern the matter.

Naval education of Indians.

26. Babu JOGENDRA KRISHNA ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Marine Department be pleased to state whether the Committee, appointed in February last year to report about the naval education of Indians, has submitted any recommendation?

(*b*) If so, have the Government passed any orders yet?

(*c*) If not, what is the cause of delay?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to publish the findings of the Committee, together with any note that might have been submitted by any member of the Committee?

MEMBER in charge of MARINE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): (*a*) (*b*) (*c*) The Committee have submitted a report in which they recommend that a nautical school should not be started in Bengal at present on account of there not being sufficient ships available, which would carry Indian apprentices. They suggest that either Government or the mercantile community of Bengal should obtain one or two vessels of about 1,000 tons to be engaged in mercantile trade and constructed to carry from 15 to 20 apprentices for experimental purposes. One member of the Committee, while agreeing with these two recommendations, has submitted a separate note in which he urges that the question should not be shelved, though he admits that it will not be possible for the Government to do much in the direction of opening the career of seamen for the younger generation of Bengal unless and until there is a sufficient number of ships owned and run by Indians. Before coming to a final decision on the question of a nautical school, Government are endeavouring to ascertain, in consultation with certain Indian shipping firms, who have expressed their willingness to employ apprentices as soon as suitable arrangements can be made on their vessels, what exactly they are prepared to do in the matter, and

whether the provision of theoretical education in a nautical school wou be advantageous.

(*d*) The question of publishing the Committee's report will be co sidered after Government have obtained material sufficient to enab them to formulate their conclusions.

Rules for recruitment to the Provincial Judicial Service.

27. Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble th Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state wheth the Government contemplate making any change in the rules for th recruitment to the Provincial Judicial Service, and, if so, will the sa rules apply to candidates who have already been enrolled for adms sion?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: The answer to the first part o the question is in the affirmative; as regards the second part, no defini statement can be made now as the whole subject is still under consider tion.

Firearms, their possession and licenses.

28. Mr. RAZAUR RAHMAN KHAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state in a tabula form the total number of firearms, under the different heads, of rifles, revolvers and shot-guns, possessed by different classes of people such as exempted and unexempted under the former Arms Act, from the years 1915-1920?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member also be pleased to state the total number of licenses of different kinds of firearms taken out under the present Arms Act, and the total number of firearms possessed by persons exempted from the provisions of the present Arms Act?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) A statement showing the number of licensed firearms in Bengal during 1915-19 is laid on the table.

The number of firearms in the possession of all exempted persons is not on record, as the registration of arms by exempted persons is voluntary. A statement showing the number of persons in Bengal exempted under the Arms Act and possessing arms is laid on the table.

(*b*) Figures relating to the administration of the Arms Act during 1920 are not yet available, as the annual reports for 1920 are not due to Government till the 1st April, 1921.

Statements referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 28.

Statement I of the number of licensed arms in Bengal.

YEAR.		Shot guns.	Rifles	Revolvers and pistols
1915	...	26,262	236	760
1916	...	26,360	226	772
1917	...	26,077	231	700
1918	...	25,662	233	687
1919	...	26,448	270	634

Statement II of the number of persons in Bengal exempted under the Arms Act and possessing arms.

1915	...	...	3,421
1916	...	...	3,878
1917	...	...	3,990
1918	...	...	3,776
1919	...	...	3,929

Telegraph office at Chikandi.

29. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to say whether it is a fact that there is no telegraph office at Chikandi and that the nearest telegraph office is more than five miles away on the other side of the river which is not easily fordable during the rainy season?

(*b*) If so, what steps are the Government taking to remove this grievance?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): (*a*) There is no telegraph office at Chikandi. The nearest telegraph office is at Palong, a distance of about four miles from Chikandi.

(*b*) Negotiations with the Telegraph Department for opening a telegraph office at Chikandi had to be held in abeyance last year on account of the shortage of telegraphic materials. The Telegraph Department have been asked whether they are now able to undertake the work.

Water supply for the town of Tangail.

30. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that the prevailing malaria in Tangail is mainly due, according to popular notion and expert opinion, to the silting up of the mouth of the river Lohajang?

(*b*) Is he also aware that the local public keenly feel the want of wat works at Tangail and that this has seriously affected the health of tl town?

(*c*) Is any scheme of water supply for the town of Tangail receivin the consideration of the Government?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The Direct of Public Health, to whom the question was referred for opinion, repor as follows:—

Popular opinion, I believe, ascribes the increase of malaria in Tangail to the silt up of the river Lohajang, and my own opinion is that lessened inundation is responsi for it. Lessened inundation of the spill area adjacent to the river might be the ca or the result of the silting up of the stream. A change in the off-take of the stre often results in diminished inundation and this has probably occurred in the prese case. Embanking the country for road and railway construction often has the sa effect. Whether there has been recent interference of this kind I am unable to sa

(*b*) The town of Tangail needs an improved water supply, but it for the municipality to take the initiative in the matter.

(*c*) No water supply scheme for the town has been submitted to Go ernment.

Amount of road and public works cesses spent on roads and tanks in Dacc

31. Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Minist in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to sta the amount collected annually as roads and public works cesses in tl district of Dacca, the collection charges and the amounts spent annuall during the last five years on roads and tanks in the district?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: A statement i laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 31, showing the amount collected as road and public works cess, the collection charges and the amount spent on roads and tanks in the district of Dacca during the last five years.

Year.	Gross Road and Public Works cesses.*	Collection Charges.	Amount spent on—	
			Roads	Tanks.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1915-16 ...	2,47,726	3,583	1,24,823	18,949
1916-17 ...	2,58,992	2,810	1,22,476	5,039
1917-18 ...	2,70,395	3,006	1,01,486	3,028
1918-19 ...	2,99,664	3,056	1,15,944	10,456
1919-20 ...	3,20,647	3,048	1,13,268	11,528

* These figures include interest on arrear cesses.

Water works scheme for Patuakhali.

32. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware of any waterworks scheme for the municipality of Patuakhali, in the district of Barisal?

(*b*) If so, is it a fact that the amount of the present estimate is more than double the original one?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to explain the reasons for such disproportionate difference in the estimates?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the question of pure drinking water has become vitally important for the people of the municipality of Patuakhali?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the Commissioner of the Dacca Division promised a grant of one-third, *i.e.*, Rs. 12,000 of the original estimate of Rs. 37,000?

(*f*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the amount of money the waterworks committee of Patuakhali has collected up till now for the purpose?

(*g*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the amount of money the Government are ready to pay towards the present estimate which has risen to about Rs. 83,000?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), and (*d*) A sketch project for the installation of a water supply scheme at Patuakhali was prepared in 1918 in view of the fact that there was a deficiency of pure drinking water, it having been found that the existing filter did not yield a sufficient supply of water and often got out of order. Its estimated cost was Rs. 27,500 and it provided for a supply of about 10,000 gallons a day with a distribution system which did not allow for house connections. A revised scheme providing for 23,000 gallons a day and for house connections, as well as a street supply was subsequently proposed, of which the estimated cost was Rs. 87,000. The municipality represented that the cost of such a scheme would be prohibitive and requested that the estimate might be reduced so as not to exceed Rs. 45,000. Under the revised scheme it would be necessary to store enough water to last for about 270 days in the year; and in view of the heavy expense involved it is thought that it would be better to sink a bore-hole and try to get water from a depth of about 400 feet. It is believed that if a supply can be obtained from a tube well, the cost would be reduced very largely. Proposals on the subject will be submitted by the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department.

(*e*) The answer is in the negative

(*f*) Rupees 21,374, including a contribution of Rs. 5,000 paid by the District Board.

(*g*) Government propose to meet the cost of sinking the bore-hole. Government are unable to make any promise as to a further contribution, until the results of sinking it are known and the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, reports what the cost of the scheme will be.

Educational inspection charges of the District Boards of the 24-Parganas and Murshidabad districts.

33. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state why only in the 24-Parganas and Murshidabad District Boards the inspection charges under general head of education far exceeded the charges for maintenance and management of middle and primary schools in the year 1918-19?

(*b*) What was the actual expense incurred in 1919-20 under each of those heads by the abovementioned District Boards?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) A reference has been made to the Chairmen of the District Boards of Murshidabad and the 24-Parganas. The Chairman of the Murshidabad District Board reports:—

The figure shown in column 31 of Form No. III for 1918-19 includes only charges for primary schools under the direct management of the Board and not the aided schools. There are no middle schools under the direct management of this Board. The inspecting pandits have to inspect both Board schools and those aided by the Board. The charges for aided schools are shown in column 32 of Form No. III.

The Chairman of the 24-Parganas District Board reports:—

In three out of the five districts comprising the Presidency Division, excluding Calcutta, viz., the 24-Parganas, Jessore and Murshidabad, inspecting pandits are maintained for the inspection of primary schools out of the funds of the Board. The cost of inspection from the funds of the Board in these districts is therefore larger in comparison with that in the two other districts. The Sub-Inspector of Schools of this district have an unmanageable number of primary schools under their inspection. For efficiency of primary schools, the help of inspecting pandits is thus absolutely necessary.

The cost shown under the head of maintenance and management of middle and primary schools represents the amount of expenditure in these classes of schools under the direct management of the Board. The number of such schools is limited. By far a larger amount is spent on stipendiary primary schools and middle schools aided under the grant-in-aid rules. This expenditure is shown under the head of grant-in-aid and is represented by Rs. 81,499 in this district.

(*b*) The following figures are reported by the District Boards concerned:—

MURSHIDABAD.

	Rs.
Inspection	2,970
Maintenance charges of Board primary schools	2,036

24-PARGANAS.

Maintenance and Management—

		Rs.
Inspection	... ..	6,314
Middle schools	.. ..	2,625
Primary schools	... ..	3,336
		5,961

Grants-in-aid—

	Rs.
Middle schools and primary schools	... 84,002

Road from Keshabpur to Panjia in Jessore.

34. Babu NALINI NATH ROY: (*a*) Has the attention of the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government been drawn to the deplorable condition of the road leading from Keshabpur to Panjia in Jessore?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware of the inconvenience caused thereby to the passengers and to traffic especially in the rainy season?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking immediate steps to metal the road?

(*d*) Are the Government aware that petitions have been made more than once by the people of Panjia and other villages to the District Board to better the condition of the road?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the amount annually collected from the Sadar and Narail subdivisions of Jessore as road cess and the amounts actually spent during the last five years in constructing and maintaining roads in the two subdivisions, respectively?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) A reference has been made to the Chairman of the Jessore District Board, who reports as follows:—

(*i*) The condition of the road is far better than that of other roads of its class in the district.

(*ii*) The inconvenience is common and incidental to all unmetalled roads.

(*iii*) The District Board cannot think of metalling the road in the near future for want of funds. There are other more important roads which cannot be metalled for want of funds.

(*d*) Government have no information on this point.

(*e*) The Chairman reports:—

As the Collector's office does not keep any separate account, to show the cess collected from a particular area, the information is not available. The following

figures will show the amounts spent on roads and communications during the l five years in the two subdivisions.

Year.	NARAIL.		SADAR.	
	Original.	Repairs.	Original.	Repairs.
	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.
1915-16	3,818	3,276	5,841	23,321
1916-17	152	2,991	2,768	24,864
1917-18	7,670	2,315	945	20,855
1918-19	8,574	2,495	3,691	16,411
1919 20	6,178	2,538	8,636	20,619

Pay of the health officers of local bodies.

35. Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: (*a*) Will t Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Gover ment be pleased to state whether the Government still adhere to the pr mise of paying half of the pay of the health officers proposed to appointed by local bodies, namely, the Municipalities and the Distri Boards?

(*b*) If not, is the question of the appointment of health officers be left to the discretion of those bodies themselves?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) Gover ment intend to continue to contribute half the pay of qualified Mun cipal Health Officers and also of District Health Officers, provided th District Boards adopt the model rules prescribing the duties of Distri Health Officers and pay them the rate of pay considered suitable, and al provided that the Legislative Council grants the necessary funds in th Budget from year to year.

(*b*) The appointment of these officers is a statutory obligation.

Municipal Commissioners to be persons residing within the municipalit

36. Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: (*a*) Will the Hon'bl the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government b pleased to say whether it is a fact that in nominating Municipal Commis sioners, persons only resident within the municipality are selected?

(*b*) If so, is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that a departure was mad in the case of Babu Chandi Charan Sur, Commissioner, Champdani Mun cipaity, who lives in French Chandernagore?

(*c*) Is it the intention of Government in future to adhere strictly to th rule of appointing gentlemen as nominated Municipal Commissioners wh reside within the limits of the Municipality?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The answe is in the negative.

(*b*) Government have no information

(*c*) It is proposed to issue instructions to Commissioners of Divisions that gentlemen who do not reside within municipal limits should not be nominated for appointment as Municipal Commissioners.

Rent Committee's recommendations for the development of Calcutta.

37. Colonel A. J. PUGH: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state with details what steps were taken, up to the end of December, 1920, to give effect to the recommendations of the Rent Committee appointed by the Government as published in the Supplement to the *Calcutta Gazette*, dated 25th February, 1920, especially with regard to the following points:—

(*i*) the development of the suburbs of Calcutta;

(*ii*) the acquisition of land for building purposes; and

(*iii*) the improvement of internal and external communications?

(*b*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the "constructive proposals" submitted to the Government on or about the 31st March, 1920, by the Committee appointed at a meeting held at the British Indian Association rooms to consider the rent problem?

(*c*) if so, what steps and decisions have the Government so far taken to give effect to any of the said constructive proposals?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The following is a statement of the recommendations made by the Committee and of the action taken on each by Government:—

(1) That Government should pass an Act by which tenants liable to ejectment in Calcutta, Howrah and other suburban municipalities could have their ejectment postponed for one year.

Government were unable to accept this recommendation but introduced a Bill, which passed into law as the Calcutta Rent Act to restrict temporarily the increase of rents in Calcutta.

(2) That Government should create a Development Board to carry out building schemes in the suburbs and acquire for the purpose a number of different areas each containing 1,000 bighas, funds being raised by loans on which Government, the Corporation and the Trust would guarantee interest.

(3) That Government should, on the recommendation of this Board, acquire land for approved building societies.

Resolution No. 84 T. M., dated the 24th May, 1920, of which a copy is laid on the table, lays down the policy of Government in the matter of acquisition of land under the Land Acquisition Act for approved building societies.

(*4*) That Government should establish a co-ordinating authority deal with questions affecting communications and development.

It was considered unnecessary to establish such an authority view of the existence of the Calcutta Public Works Conference whi consists of representatives of Government, the Railways, the Calcu Corporation, the Calcutta Improvement Trust, the Port Commission and six suburban Municipalities as well as of the officer at present d charging the duties of the Development Commissioner.

(*5*) That Government should make a survey of the land they hold a provide accommodation for their employees.

Enquiries have been made and a scheme for building residences the Pora Bazaar site has been prepared, which awaits the provision funds.

(*6*) That the Corporation should not license any more factories central areas.

This recommendation was referred to the Corporation.

(*7*) That when Government takes up land in the city for hospita educational institutions or public offices, an equal area should be devel ed in the suburbs.

This recommendation was not accepted by Government.

(*8*) That the Mint should be moved to the suburbs.

The Government of India appointed a Committee to report on t advisability of removing the Mint from its present site. The Comm tee's report is under the consideration of that Government.

(*9*) That a Town Planning Act should be passed without delay.

A Bill for town planning was circulated in January last to vario associations and municipalities for opinion.

(*10*) That Howrah and the suburban municipalities should be broug under the jurisdiction of the Corporation.

This recommendation cannot be given effect to under the existing la unless the municipalities themselves agree to their inclusion in Calcutt

(*11*) That the construction of main roads to the suburbs should b pushed through by the Trust.

Letter No. $\frac{11-6}{36}$, dated the 14th July, 1920, from the Chairma Calcutta Improvement Trust, is laid on the table.

(*12*) That provision should be made for crossing the import goo sorting yard to the south of Calcutta.

Government have taken up this matter with the Port Commissioner and propose to make a representation on the subject to the Railwa Board as soon as the Port Commissioners' plans are received.

(*13*) That Government should take up the question of moving th Chitpur yard.

Government have taken up this matter with the Eastern Bengal Railway and the Railway Board. The Railway Board have stated that the proposal to remove the Chitpur yard from its present site is accepted in principle.

(*14*) That the surburban railway system should be extended and electrified.

(*15*) That tube railways should be constructed in Calcutta.

The Rent Committee's recommendations were forwarded to a Committee appointed by the Railway Board to consider a scheme for an electric railway and the best method of solving the problem of rapid transit to and from Calcutta. That latter committee's report has been published in the press.

(*16*) That no more tramways should be laid in narrow streets.

This recommendation was forwarded to the Calcutta Corporation for consideration.

(*17*) That there should be more landing stages on the river.

(*18*) That there should be free ferry services across the river.

The Marine Department of this Government has been in consultation with the Port Commissioners regarding these recommendations.

(*19*) That the construction of the new Howrah Bridge should be expedited, existing bridges improved and the further insulation of Calcutta by canals and railways checked.

As regards the Howrah Bridge Government have invited public opinion to assist them in deciding the most suitable type of bridge

The construction of the Kidderpore Bridge over Tolly's Nullah with a broader roadway and strength enough for an up-to-date traffic has been undertaken. The Improvement Trust will undertake the reconstruction of wider bridges over the circular canal, at the Jessore and Barrackpore Road crossing, on behalf of the authorities interested.

(*20*) That the Grand Trunk Canal project should be expedited.

The member is referred to the speech made in the Legislative Council by the Hon'ble Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan on 3rd March, 1921.

(*21*) That Government should appoint a special officer to enquire into the possibilities of rendering land in the outer suburbs available for building purposes.

The consideration of this recommendation has been deferred till the completion of the anti-malarial survey of the vicinity of Calcutta by an officer working under the Director of Public Health.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) The action taken on the proposals of the Calcutta Rent Committee covered some of the proposals. No action was taken on the remainder.

Letter referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 37 (a) (

No. II-6/36, dated Calcutta, the 14th July 1920.

From—THE HON'BLE MR. F. C. FRENCH, C.S.I., I.C.S., Chair Calcutta Improvement Trust,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Municipal Departme

With reference to your letter No. 1116 M., dated 6th April 1920, and you sequent reminder No. 1849 M., dated 15th June 1920, enquiring what actu proposed to be taken by the Board of Trustees for the Improvement of Calcut connection with paragraph 20, Chapter VI of the Report of the Committee appo to enquire into land values and rents in Calcutta, I have the honour to say tha Board on consideration of the matter have decided to report as follows.—

The Trust is pressing forward the construction of the great north and arterial road of Calcutta known as the Central Avenue in the north and Russa in the south.

In the north of the city it has already taken in hand a great East and West —the Manktolla Spur from Central Avenue to Upper Circular Road, and this will be extended westward to the river at Jagannath Ghat as soon as the Trus undertake it.

In the south of the city broad roads in continuation of Park Street, Th Road and Lower Circular Road converging in the Karaya neighbourhood are constructed and the Engineering Works will be started this autumn.

Still further south a new East and West Road, 100 feet in breadth, will run Chetla to Ballygunge Railway Station. The scheme has been sanctioned by G ment and the work will be put in hand without delay.

The Trust has also agreed to undertake the reconstruction of the Canal Br on the Barrackpore and Dum-Dum Roads.

The above are the main projects for the improvement of communications th engaging the attention of the Trust at present.

In addition to these schemes the Trust has prepared alignments of a syst main roads in Calcutta and suburbs which have received the sanction of Govern and which will in due course be converted into schemes.

It may be added that the Trust is working to the utmost limits of its fin capacity.

The Board is deferring further consideration of the question of communic pending receipt of the Report of the Committee appointed by Government spe to deal with this subject.

Resolution referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 37 (a)

No. 84T.—M., dated Darjeeling, the 24th May 1920.

RESOLUTION—By the Government of Bengal, Municipal Department

In introducing the Calcutta Rent Bill in the Bengal Legislative Council Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan stated that Government re that legislation for the restriction of rents was in itself not sufficient to solv housing problem in Calcutta, and that Government were considering the ado of further measures for the improvement of existing conditions. At present the chief obstacles to the expansion and development of Calcutta is the diff which building societies and companies experience in obtaining land and secur firm title It was on this account that the Calcutta Rents Committee recomm that Government should utilize the provisions of the Land Acquisition A

acquire land for bodies which had been formed definitely for the provision of housing accommodation. There is evidence that private enterprise is prepared to take up housing schemes, provided that it is granted reasonable facilities for the acquisition of land, and Government have accordingly decided to accept the recommendation of the Committee and to acquire land under the Land Acquisition Act on behalf and at the cost of registered companies formed for housing purposes, whose schemes are approved by Government, so long as emergent measures are necessary for the development of Calcutta. In order to give effect to this decision, an officer will be placed on special duty, under the title of Development Commissioner, who will be required to examine the schemes put forward by private companies, to obtain full information about them and to advise Government whether land should be acquired, and, if so, upon what conditions. It will also be the duty of this officer to ascertain whether Government or any local authority or railway has proposals in view or work in hand which may affect or be affected by the building schemes proposed. For this purpose, he will be a member of the Calcutta Public Works Conference which contains representatives of Government, the Railways, the Corporation of Calcutta, the Calcutta Improvement Trust, the Port Commissioners and six suburban municipalities. Each scheme will be considered by Government on its merits and with reference to its public utility, and, if accepted by Government, such conditions will be imposed as will safeguard the interests of the public, for, while Government are of opinion that the existing shortage of houses in Calcutta and its neighbourhood justifies them in making use of the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act for the purpose of making good the deficiency in the interests of the public at large, it is equally clear to them that they would not be justified in using the Act in furtherance of speculative schemes, whose primary object is that of enriching their promoters. Pending the appointment of the special officer above referred to, applications from those desirous of having land acquired for building purposes in Calcutta or its neighbourhood should be made to the Collector of Calcutta.

Colonel A. J. PUGH: How many residences is it proposed to build on the Pora Bazaar site and which employees are they intended for?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I should like to have notice of this question as it refers to details which I am not in a position at present to place before the Council.

Colonel A. J. PUGH: Is the Government prepared to lease or sell the Pora Bazaar site if funds are not provided?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I want notice of the question.

Amounts spent on roads in the Sadar and Narayanganj subdivisions of Dacca.

38. Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the amount actually spent during the last ten years in constructing and maintaining roads in Sadar and Narayanganj subdivisions of the Dacca District.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 38, showing the amount spent by the Dacca District Board, the Dacca Municipality and the Narayanganj Municipality in constructing and maintaining roads in the Sadar and Narayanganj subdivisions during the last ten years.

YEAR.	DACCA DISTRICT BOARD.				Dacca Municipality.	Narayanganj Municipality.
	SADAR SUBDIVISION.		NARAYANGANJ SUBDIVISION.			
	Original works.	Repairs.	Original works.	Repairs		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs
1910-11	24,583	29,604	12,089	11,016	64,905	11,88
1911-12	14,503	21,094	6,368	8,034	63,191	17,90
1912-13	10,838	26,183	3,242	12,544	73,438	16,1[illegible]
1913-14	34,081	27,959	7,776	9,8[illegible]0	52,915	14,9[illegible]
1914-15	27,484	34,838	7,231	13,741	59,709	7,51
1915-16	10,806	44,007	6,027	17,265	67,649	10,7[illegible]
1916-17	15,910	42,364	18,376	16,210	54,040	8,24
1917-18	11,346	33,157	21,725	13,507	62,293	13,02
1918-19	16,365	29,446	31,832	13,828	62,664	9,4[illegible]
1919-20	12,232	47,986	17,233	15,602	62,755	15,31

N.B.—The figures in column 6 include the pay of road coolies, road inspectors and road sirkars.

Discrepancies in certain statements.

39. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to refer to the figures for 1917-18 and for 1918-19 in the statement A and C laid on the table by the Hon'ble Mr. O'Malley in answer to unstarred question No. 7 asked by the Hon'ble Babu Akhil Chandra Dutta on the 3rd February, 1920, and to the figures for those years in the statement B referred to in the reply to my unstarred question No. 41 for the meeting of the 7th February, 1921, and to state in view of the many and substantial discrepancies which of the two statements is correct?

(*b*) If both are stated to be correct, then what explanations are there for the apparently divergent figures?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) and (*b*) "Statement B" to which the member refers was an incomplete offic

note which it was not intended to include in the answer to question No. 41 asked by the member. It was printed and attached to the answer by the Legislative Department under a misapprehension The percentage of the income of District Boards spent on medical relief and primary education is as in the statement below.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 39, showing the percentage of income of District Boards spent on medical relief and primary education.*

District Boards.	Medical relief.*			Primary education		
	1917-18.	1918-19	1919-20	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20
Burdwan	5·6	5	5 4	9 8	10 0	10·1
Birbhum	7·4	9 1	6 9	16·7	20 1	19 5
Bankura	4·9	4 4	2 2	25 9	28 3	16 2
Midnapore	4 6	3·5	3·5	25 0	25 0	25·8
Hooghly	10·4	12 3	13·1	14·5	15 7	16·9
Howrah	6·8	7·2	8 3	17 2	19 1	14 3
24 Parganas	4·5	4·4	5 3	11 2	11 6	13 9
Nadia	4·6	5·8	6·7	19 3	11 2	15·1
Murshidabad	6·0	8 7	8·6	17 5	17 9	18 0
Jessore	5 6	5·9	7 7	9 3	15·0	21 2
Khulna	8·8	8·8	10·7	9·9	15 4	15 2
Dacca	12·1	12·8	8 8	26 4	28·8	24·3
Mymensingh	5·9	8·2	6 8	20·5	23 9	23 7
Faridpur	5·7	5·1	6·8	23·6	27 5	28 6
Bakarganj	7·7	7·8	9 7	18·9	20·5	26 0
Chittagong	6·7	6·1	8·1	20·6	25 1	38 3
Tippera	5·4	5·6	6·7	26·0	29·4	27 8
Noakhali	7·0	8·6	6 4	23·6	29 8	28 0
Rajshahi	4·0	5·1	4·7	7·7	24·2	19·7
Dinajpur	4·1	4·3	6·2	17·9	24·7	17·6
Jalpaiguri	3·9	3·1	4 7	20·0	17 4	18·8
Rangpur	10·5	11·4	12·4	22·9	23 3	21·5
Bogra	7·4	8·9	7·7	26·2	29·8	30·2
Pabna	3·8	3·9	3·8	21·0	28 0	27·7
Malda	9·5	8·7	6·1	20·6	20 3	22·7

* This comprises general medical establishment and hospitals and dispensaries.

Post of the Principal of the Government Commercial Institute in Calcutta.

40. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state—

(*i*) the date on which the Government of Bengal has been pleased to represent to His Excellency the Governor-General of India in Council for the appointment by the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India, of the Principal of the Government Commercial Institute in Calcutta;

(*ii*) the reasons as to why the said appointment has not as yet been made; and

(*iii*) when the said appointment is likely to be made?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in requisitioning the services of the said Principal, knowledge of economics and experience in business has been put in as a secondary qualification for the said post, and, if so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware of a feeling that exists that it is desirable that the Principal of the said Institute should have actual experience in business?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of submitting a fresh representation to the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India through the Government of India, requisitioning that special stress be laid upon the qualification of business experience in selecting a candidate for the said post?

(*e*) Is it the intention of Government to make the appointment without any further delay?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) (*i*) On the 9th January, 1920, the Government of Bengal addressed the Secretary of State requesting him to select a suitable officer in the United Kingdom and appoint him to the post in question.

(*ii*) The Secretary of State has not yet been able to recruit a suitable officer.

(*iii*) The Secretary of State telegraphed on 18th February, 1921, that it was unlikely that a suitable officer would be recruited by 1st April next. No further information on this point is available.

(*b*) The qualifications laid down by this Government for the Principal were that he should be a graduate of a British University and should have specialized in some way that will be useful to him as the head of the only Government Institution providing commercial education in an important commercial centre like Calcutta. It was stated that he should, if possible, have had experience of commercial education in Great Britain

and have a knowledge of economics or have had some actual experience in business. Thus it will be seen that a knowledge of economics and experience in business is especially laid down as being the kind of quaifications that the Principal should possess.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) In view of the fact that actual experience in business was mentioned as a desirable qualification for the Principal in this Government's original despatch to the Secretary of State it appears unnecessary to emphasise the fact further.

(*e*) Government have already cabled in February, 1921, to the Secretary of State with whom the matter rests.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: May I ask when this post is likely to be filled up? It will appear that on the 9th January, 1921 on the representation of——

The PRESIDENT: You cannot make a speech.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I beg to ask further as to when the post of the Principal of Government Commercial Institute is likely to be filled up by the Secretary of State. The Board has waited for more than 12 months, but to no effect.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: Government have no information.

Inconvenience of Dacca Medical School students in coming to Calcutta to sit for the State Medical Faculty Examinations.

41. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that the Dacca Medical School students are required to come to Calcutta three times in the course of four years for the State Medical Faculty Examinations?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that this is a cause of great inconvenience to them and also involves them in heavy expenditure?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking steps to open a centre of examination for the State Medical Faculty in Dacca or to attach that School with the Dacca University?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The reply is in the affirmative.

(*b*) Government are aware that the students have to bear the expense of the journey and of temporary accommodation in Calcutta.

(*c*) The creation of a separate centre of examination at Dacca would entail considerable expenditure to the State Medical Faculty and in case separate examiners were selected for practical examinations at Dacca, it would affect the standard of examinations.

There is no proposal before Government to attach the Dacca Medical School to the Dacca University.

The practical portions of the higher degree examinations in science of the Calcutta University, are all held in Calcutta.

Lack of accommodation in the Dacca Medical School.

42. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware of the lack of accommodation in the Dacca Medical School, on account of which classes are held in the open verandah?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that there is no provision for an examination hall, reading room, or waiting room, and that the demonstration classes, and post-mortem house are also congested?

(*c*) Is it a fact that, to remove these inconveniences, the Superintendent of the Dacca Medical School asked for the extension of the school building by the addition of a couple of rooms?

(*d*) If so, what action has been taken thereon?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) and (*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) and (*d*) Proposals have been submitted for the extension of the Medical School buildings at an estimated cost of Rs. 55,250. The scheme provides for an examination hall and a post-mortem building, the former of which will afford accommodation for materia medica and pathological museums and set free two class rooms. Administrative approval was given to the scheme in January, 1921, and detailed plans and estimates will now be prepared. Government propose to take up the work when funds are available, provided that the necessary grant is voted by the Legislative Council.

The appointment of a Muhammadan Income Tax Deputy Collector.

43. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to place on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of gazetted, non-gazetted and ministerial officers in the Calcutta Income Tax Office; and

(*ii*) the number of Muhammadans both in the permanent and temporary staff?

(*b*) Is it a fact that no Muhammadan has ever been appointed to the post of Income Tax Deputy Collector in Calcutta?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state when the present Deputy Collector attached to the Calcutta Income Tax Office is due to retire?

(*d*) Is it the intention of Government to appoint a Muhammadan Deputy Collector in the next vacancy?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of laying down a rule whereby gazetted officers, attached to the Calcutta Income Tax Office, will hold appointments in that office for a special period just as in other special Departments like the Settlement and *Khas Mahals*?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) The following statement furnishes the information:—

		Number of appointments.	Number of Muhammadans employed.
Gazetted—			
Permanent	...	. 5	Nil
Temporary	..	... 1	Nil
Non-gazetted—			
Permanent	...	. . 15	4 *
Temporary	...	... 19	1
Ministerial—			
Permanent	...	... 99	23
Temporary	. .	... 17	5

* One recently died.

(*b*) and (*d*) The member is referred to the answers given to the unstarred question No. 20 asked by Mr. Razaur Rahman Khan at the meeting of the Council on the 14th March, 1921.

(*c*) The present Deputy Collector has been granted an extension of service for one year with effect from the 17th July, 1921.

(*e*) No.

Statement of agricultural demonstrators from the different communities.

44. Maulvi AZAHARUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to lay on the table a statement of the demonstrators employed under the Agricultural Department in the following form:—

Total number of demonstrators.....

Hindus—

Baidya.....

Kayastha.....

Brahmin.....

Namasudra.....

Muhammadans.....

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 44.

Total number of demonstrators.	Hindus *				Muhammadans
	Baidya.	Kayastha.	Brahmin.	Namasudra.	
79	10	24	13	4	23

* There are also five men belonging to the following castes:—Barui, Barber, Mahisya, Sudra and Satgop.

Percentage of Muhammadans as District Agricultural Officers.

45. Maulvi AZAHARUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state what percentage of the District Agricultural Officers are Muhammadans?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware of a feeling that exists that a demonstrator belonging to the agricultural class would be more suitable for work of demonstration among his own people?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) About 6 per cent.

(*b*) Yes. It has been decided that in future young men who are practical agriculturists will be recruited for these posts. English is not essential, but they must be literate in the vernacular and have some knowledge of arithmetic. They will be trained for at least one year in practical agriculture in a farm and for another year in demonstration work.

Number of promotions of Hindus and Muhammadans in the ranks of the police service.

46. Khan Bahadur KHWAJA MOHAMED AZAM: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to lay on the table the following statistics, year by year, viz.:—

(*i*) the number of inspectors promoted during the last 15 years to the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police, and the number of Deputy Superintendents appointed direct (the number of Hindu and Muhammadan officers to be given separately);

(*ii*) the number of Hindu sub-inspectors promoted during the last 15 years to the rank of inspector, and the number of Mussalman sub-inspectors promoted to the same rank (in both cases, the number to be shown, district by district and range by range); and

(*iii*) the number of assistant sub-inspectors promoted to the rank of sub-inspector and the number of head constables promoted to the rank of assistant sub-inspector, during 1920, district by district and range by range, and out of them how many are Hindus and how many Muhammadans?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*i*), (*ii*) and (*iii*) Statements furnishing the statistics from the 1st April, 1912 (the date on which the present province of Bengal was constituted), to the 31st December, 1920, are laid on the table. As appointments to sub-inspectorships are made once a year in January, and as the rank of assistant sub-inspector was created only in April, 1920, no assistant sub-inspector was promoted to the rank of sub-inspector in that year.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 46 (i), showing—

(a) *The number of inspectors promoted to the rank of Deputy Superintendent from the 1st April, 1912, to the 31st December, 1920.*

Year.	Hindus.	Muhammadans	Others.	Total
1912 (from April to December).	...	...	...	...
1913	3	...	1	4
1914	...	...	...	...
1915	1	1	...	2
1916	4	...	1	5
1917	...	...	1	1
1918	2	...	...	2
1919	3	1	...	4
1920	1	1	...	2
Total ...	14	3	3	20

(b) *The number of Deputy Superintendents appointed direct during the period from the 1st April, 1912, to the 31st December, 1920*

Year.	Hindus.	Muhammadans	Others.	Total.
1912	...	1	...	1
1913	...	...	...	...
1914	1	...	...	1
1915	...	...	...	...
1916	2	1	...	3
1917	3	...	...	3
1918	...	2	...	2
1919	...	1	...	1
1920	...	...	...	...
Total ...	6	5	...	11

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 46 (a) showing the Hindu and Muhammadan sub-inspectors promoted to the rank of inspectors from April, 1912, to December, 1920.

	April to December, 1912.		1913.		1914.		1915.		1916.		1917.		1918.		1919.		1920.	
	Hindu.	Muhammadan.	Hindu.	Muhammadan.	Hindu.	Muhammadan.	Hindu.	Muhammadan.	Hindu.	Muhammadan.	Hindu.	Muhammadan.	Hindu.	Muhammadan.	Hindu.	Muhammadan.	Hindu.	Muhammadan.
Dacca Range.																		
Dacca	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	6	...	2	...	1	...
Mymensingh	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Tippera	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	
Constables' Training School, Dacca.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	
Bakarganj Range.																		
Bakarganj	1	...	...	...	4	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	
Faridpur	...	...	...	...	3	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	1	
Chittagong	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	..	1	...	2	...	...	...	..	1	...	
Noakhali	...	...	1	...	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	.	..	..	...	..	
River Police	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	..	1	2	...	
Rajshahi Range.																		
Rajshahi	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	..	
Rangpur	...	...	..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	..	1	..	...	...
Jalpaiguri	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	..	1	...	..	...	...	
Dinajpur	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	
Pabna	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	..	...	...	...	2	...	..	
Bogra	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Malda	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	...	..	...	...	...
Darjeeling	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	
Police Training College, Sardah.	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...		
E. B. Railway Police, Saidpur.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	
Presidency Range.																		
24-Parganas	...	...	2	...	3	...	...	...	3	1	2	...	1	...	1	...	1	
Nadia	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	..
Jessore	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	
Khulna	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	.	
Murshidabad	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	3	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	
E. B. Railway, Sealdah ...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	
Constables' Training School, Berhampore.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	..

	April to December, 1912.		1913.		1914.		1915.		1916		1917		1918.		1919		1920.	
	Hindu.	Muhammadan.	Hindu.	Muhammadan.	Hindu.	Muhammadan.	Hindu.	Muhammadan	Hindu	Muhammadan	Hindu	Muhammadan	Hindu	Muhammadan.	Hindu	Muhammadan	Hindu	Muhammadan
Burdwan Range.																		
Burdwan	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	.	...	...	1	.	1	..
Bankura	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	.	...	1	..	...	..	..	..	..	2	
Birbhum	...	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	..	..	.	...	...
Midnapore	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	..	4	..	...		.	..	...	...
Howrah	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	..	...		..	...	...
Hooghly	...	...	.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	..	...	.	1	1	...	..
E. I. Railway, Howrah ...	...	...	1	...	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	.	...	...	..	...	...	...
Criminal Investigation Department.	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	..	3	.	1		.		1		.	..
Intelligence Branch ...	...	...	...	...	2	...	3	..	4	1	3	..	2		..	...	..	..
TOTAL ..	2	...	16	1	43	7	6	...	31	3	34	1	25	1	12	4	7	...

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 46 (iii), showing the number of head constables promoted to the rank of assistant sub-inspector during 1920.

Range.	District.	Hindus	Muhammadans	Others	Total.
Rajshahi Range ...	Rajshahi ...	32	20	...	52
	Rangpur ...	44	10	...	54
	Malda ...	17	12	...	29
	Dinajpur ...	45	7	...	52
	Bogra ...	16	5	..	21
	Darjeeling ...	20	...	7	27
	Pabna ...	26	13	...	39
	Jalpaiguri ...	20	10	...	30
	Police Training College, Sardah.	2	...	...	2
	Eastern Bengal Railway Police, Saidpur	14	14	...	28

Range.	District.	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Others.	Total.
Bakarganj Range ...	Faridpur ...	50	7	...	57
	Chittagong ...	40	9	3	52
	Noakhali ...	22	6	...	28
	Bakarganj ...	75	7	...	82
	River Police ...	14	11	...	25
Dacca Range ...	Dacca ...	68	26	...	94
	Mymensingh ...	70	32	...	102
	Tippera ...	38	20	...	58
	Constables' Training School, Dacca.	6	1	...	7
Presidency Range ...	Jessore ...	35	12	...	47
	Nadia ...	35	10	...	45
	Khulna ...	35	13	...	48
	24-Parganas ...	76	7	...	83
	Murshidabad ...	39	15	...	54
	Eastern Bengal Railway, Sealdah	20	1	...	21
	Constables' Training School Berhampore.	3	...	...	3
Burdwan Range ...	Burdwan ...	52	7	...	59
	Bankura ...	23	2		25
	Birbhum ...	14	11		26
	Midnapore ...	57	14	...	71
	Howrah ...	41	11	...	52
	Hooghly ...	33	14	...	47
	East Indian Railway Police, Howrah.	20	4	...	24
	Criminal Investigation Department.	7	4	...	11
	Total ...	1,109	335	11	1,455

Damage caused by the Madaripur Bil route canal.

47. Babu BHISHMADEV DAS: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation aware that the construction of a high embankment along the left bank of the Madaripur Bil route canal and that of the canal itself have had the effect of bringing a large quantity of water from the upper parts of the canal in the rainy season and of flooding large tracts of agricultural lands within the police-stations of Gopalganj, Maksudpur and Kasdani, on the right bank of the canal and of preventing the reaping of the *aus* crop each year?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member also aware that as a result of the construction of the canal with a high embankment on the left, many low lands on the right bank in the locality mentioned now remain under water throughout the year, and have become unfit for cultivation, though they were formerly culturable?

(*c*) Are any steps proposed to be taken for preventing the throwing in each year of such a large volume of water by the canal on the right bank?

(*d*) Is it the intention of Government to grant any compensation to the holders of agricultural lands prejudicially affected by the construction of the canal and embankment, until steps are taken to prevent the damage caused by the canal?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) and (*b*) Previous reports show that the construction of the bund on the south bank of the Madaripur Bil channel has not the effect suggested in these questions.

(*c*) and (*d*) The questions do not arise.

Banibhaban mess for Namasudra students.

48. Babu BHISHMADEV DAS: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the poor Namasudra students of the Banibhaban mess at 10, Simla Street, Calcutta, have to pay seat rent; and

(*ii*) whether such hostels for the depressed classes at Dacca are rent-free?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware of a feeling that exists among the boarders that they have to live under the superintendence of a man having not much sympathy with the Namasudra community?

(*c*) Is there any arrangement for free medical aid in the Banibhaban mess at Calcutta, and, if so, how many times has it been visited by the medical officer in the course of last year?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) (*i*) They pay Rs. 3 and Rs. 2 per month for upper and ground floor accommodation respectively.

(*a*) (*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) Complaints have been received on this score. They were considered by the Students' Residence Committee of the Calcutta University, which decided that no action was necessary.

(*c*) The answer to the first part of the question is "No." The second half therefore does not arise.

Statement to be made when purchasing non-judicial stamps in Faridpur.

49. Babu BHISHMADEV DAS: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that stamp-vendors in the district of Faridpur compel purchasers of non-judicial stamps to state the purpose for which they require such stamps?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state under what authority such a proceeding is enforced?

(*c*) If such authority exists, are the Government aware of the fact that persons of position feel reluctant to communicate to a stamp-vendor that they have occasion to borrow money or to transact any other business of a private character requiring a non-judicial stamp?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of ordering the discontinuance of such a practice, wherever it exists?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) Government were not previously aware of this practice, which is not authorised by any rule. The Collector of Faridpur, however, reports that it has long been the practice in that district to require the purchasers of stamps to furnish this information, which is entered by the stamp-vendor on the back of the stamped paper and in his register along with the other particulars required by rule 10 of the rules framed under section 74 of the Indian Stamp Act, 1899. The Collector thinks that the practice operates as a check against fraud and that it is in force in other districts also. In this opinion the District Judge concurs. The Collector further reports that no objection was ever raised to the practice until last July, when a Munsif at Bhanga refused to supply the information to a stamp-vendor from whom he desired to purchase a stamp for his private use.

(*d*) Government are consulting Commissioners as to the prevalence of the practice and as to the desirability or otherwise of maintaining it.

Public Companies.

50. Mr. SYED ERFAN ALI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of public companies which have been floated each year, from 1914 to 1920;

(*ii*) how many of these companies have since failed and how many of them are in existence and with what working capital;

(*iii*) what were the causes of their failure;

(*iv*) how many of these companies have neglected to comply with the rules under sections 101, 102, 103 and 104 of the Companies Act, 1913;

(*v*) how many of these companies collapsed before raising the minimum subscription and how many of them after raising the minimum subscription;

(*vi*) how many of the companies started have gone into liquidation

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware of the existence of a feeling at the majority of the managing agents of these companies have never en in business before nor were they ever financially sound?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state:—

(*i*) the number of companies which did not commence business;

(*ii*) the total paid up capital of companies which have been wound up or otherwise dissolved;

(*iii*) the number of companies:—

(*1*) incorporated abroad and working in Bengal;

(*2*) incorporated in Bengal and working abroad or outside Bengal;

(*iv*) the annual income and expenditure of the Department of the Joint Stock Companies in Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: (*a*) (*i*) Number of companies, public and vate incorporated:—

			Limited by shares.	Limited by guarantee	Societies
1914-15	...	...	58	4	11
1915-16	..	...	69	2	15
1916-17	...	...	97	1	16
1917-18	...	...	143	4	19
1918-19	...	...	172	5	27
1919-20	...	...	514	5	13
	Total	...	1,053	21	101

(*a*) (*ii*), (*iii*) and (*vi*) The number of the above companies that have ne into liquidation is—

			Limited by shares.	Limited by guarantee	Societies
1914-15	...	...	1	...	...
1915-16	...	...	...	...	...
1916-17	...	...	8	...	...
1917-18	...	...	8	...	...
1918-19	...	...	10	...	...
1919-20	...	...	7	...	...
	Total	...	34	...	...

One thousand and nineteen companies incorporated since April, 1 are still in existence. To give the figures of working capital w entail searching the records of 1,019 companies which would obvio take a long time. Further, private companies, a good many of which included in this number, are not required to file balance sheets. M over, the phrase " working capital " is indefinite.

It does not necessarily follow that a company has failed becaus goes into liquidation. The three main causes of liquidation are n vency reconstruction or amalgamation.

(*a*) (*iv*) There are no rules in existence under sections 101, 102, and 104 of the Indian Companies Act, 1913.

(*a*) (*v*) Companies shown in (*a*) (*ii*) which have collapsed:—

	Before raising minimum subscription.	After raising minimum subscription
1914-15	1	...
1915-16	...	...
1916-17	8	...
1917-18	7	1
1918-19	5	5
1919-20	5	2
Total ...	26	8

(*b*) The attention of the member is drawn to paragraphs 6, 7 a of the Report of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies for the 1919-20. It does not seem possible to make more precise infere than have been arrived at by the Registrar.

(*c*) (*i*) See answer (*a*) (*v*). As the companies there referred to not raise the minimum subscription, it is to be presumed that they did commence business.

(*c*) (*ii*)

	Number of companies wound up or otherwise dissolved.	Amount of paid-up capital.
		Rs.
1914-15	60	6,10,566
1915-16	17	11,70,452
1916-17	44	14,05,632
1917-18	39	22,04,191
1918-19	83	85,33,484
1919-20	36	24,33,908
Total ...	279	1,63,58,233

(*c*) (*iii*) (*1*) Number of companies incorporated abroad and working Bengal on 31st March, 1920—444.

(2) This information is not available.

(c) (iv) Annual income and expenditure of office of Registrar of Joint ock Companies—

		Income.			Expenditure.		
		Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
1914-15	... ...	34,920	14	0	19,465	1	2
1915-16	... ...	35,617	11	0	17,812	13	7
1916-17	... ...	41,874	2	0	16,326	6	2
1917-18	... ...	61,743	9	0	17,090	4	0
1918-19	... ...	64,398	0	0	18,437	7	8
1919-20	... ...	2,27,867	4	0	21,531	12	11
	Total ...	4,66,421	8	0	1,10,663	13	6

Increased rate of pay of the Civil Assistant Surgeons.

51. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MAITRA: (a) Will the Hon'ble the inister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased o state the amount of money budgeted last year to provide for the increased rate of pay of the Civil Assistant Surgeons of Bengal and whether he whole amount is still available? If not, why not?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the amount of oney necessary to meet the expenditure for this increased rate of pay itely sanctioned by the Secretary of State?

(c) Is it a fact that this increased rate of pay has been sanctioned by he Secretary of State for India to take effect from 1st April, 1920, only, hereas in cases of other Provincial Services, the increased rates of pay ave been sanctioned from December, 1919, and in case of the Indian Iedical Service from April, 1918?

(d) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reason why his distinction has been made in the different services?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (a) As the member's question was received on 4th March, 1921, it is presumed that by he last year he means the year 1919-20. No budget provision was made n that year for the increased rates of pay. The sum of Rs. 1,33,000 as provided for this purpose in the Budget for 1920-21, which was aised to Rs. 2,00,000 in the revised estimate; and Rs. 2,20,000 have been rovided in the Budget for 1921-22.

(b) Rs. 2,00,000 in 1920-21 and Rs. 2,20,000 in 1921-22.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*d*) The date, 1st April, 1920, was fixed by the Secretary of St and the local Government are not aware of his reasons for doing s

Joint stock companies.

52. Babu JOGENDRA KRISHNA ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to put a statement showing—

(*i*) the total number of joint stock companies registered in Ben during the period of two years commencing from Novem 1918;

(*ii*) the total amount of capital which had to be utilized for development of different branches of trade, commerce industry;

(*iii*) the names of the companies which have failed to go to al ment;

(*iv*) the names of companies which stipulated in the Articles of A ciation to go to allotment without having less than at l 25 per cent. of the share capital subscribed?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that during the comp boom in Bengal a lot of people with questionable antecedents floated c panies and, by sending out canvassers, induced a good many people in mufassal to purchase shares?

(*c*) If so, are the Government thinking of taking any steps to ch this evil?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the advisability of appoint an additional officer in the office of the Registrar of Joint Stock C panies who may examine the condition of joint stock concerns periodic and thereby put a check to the misuse of the money of the public?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: (*a*) (*i*) The total number of joint stock c panies registered in Bengal during the two years from 1st Novem 1918 to the 31st October, 1920, is 903.

(*ii*) A reference is invited to Statements Nos. 2 and 4 annexed to Annual Report of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Bengal, the years 1918-19 and 1919-20. Similar information will be given in report for the current year.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) Government do not consider that it is in the pul interest to give the names of the companies in this answer.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The police are investigating charges against several persons a if sufficient evidence can be obtained, they will be prosecuted.

(*d*) No.

Number of executive officers on judicial work and the number of additional executive officers to be required on the severance of the judicial from the executive and the local Government's correspondence on the subject.

53. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of Deputy Magistrates and Sub-Deputy Magistrates now engaged in each of the districts in Bengal and Calcutta on judicial work;

(*ii*) how many additional officers of the rank of Magistrates, Deputy Magistrates and Sub-Deputy Magistrates have been estimated by Government to be required approximately on adjustment of distribution of work, if the executive functions are completely severed from the judicial and the judicial portion be placed totally under the administrative jurisdiction of the High Court of Calcutta?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the local Government have had any correspondence with either the Government of India or directly with the Secretary of State for India during the last 25 years on the question of the separation of the executive from the judiciary in district administration?

(*c*) If they have, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the library table a copy of the whole correspondence on the subject.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) The information desired could only be obtained if a definite scheme were worked out in detail and this would involve an expenditure of time and labour which Government would not be justified in undertaking unless the theoretical question assumes a more practical shape.

(*b*) There has been correspondence from time to time with the Government of India on the subject.

(*c*) The correspondence could not be published without the consent of the Government of India and, indeed, if it were to be complete, of the Secretary of State. The question has hitherto, until quite recently, been treated as an all-India one, and the publication of papers relating to it is really a matter for the consideration of the Government of India.

Inconvenience of patients in the Dacca Mitford Hospital for want of mosquito curtains and consequent spread of malaria through mosquito bites.

54. Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that the

patients in the Dacca Mitford Hospital suffer very great inconvenience and become exposed to the danger of developing malaria, through mosquito bites, for want of mosquito curtains?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of taking steps to provide the patients in the said hospital with mosquito curtains?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) and (*b*) The Superintendent of the Dacca Mitford Hospital reports that there are 200 mosquito-nets available, but that many of the patients are reluctant to use them.

Progress in the deliberations and proceedings of the Calcutta Transport Facilities Committee.

55. Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state what progress has been made in the deliberations and proceedings of the Calcutta Transport Facilities Committee appointed by the Government some time ago?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): The Committee appointed by the Government of India to consider the problem of rapid transportation to and from and in Calcutta concluded its deliberations in March 1920.

The report was printed and copies were sent by the Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board), to the public bodies interested and to the Calcutta press in August 1920.

Registration Department.

56. Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to announce the difference between the income of the Registration Department when the department was organised in 1905 and that at the present time?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to announce the amount of surplus earned by the Registration Department up to the end of 1920 or 1919?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to declare whether there is any resolution of the Government of India to the effect that the surplus earned by the Registration Department should not be absorbed by any other department?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware of the difficulties of the officers of the department in the mufassal—especially as regards housing accommodation, medical aid, education of their boys, etc.?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that since 1905 the income of the department has steadily increased?

(*f*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the pay and prospects of officers of the Registration Department have not been bettered, although the pay and prospects of all other departments have been revised and improved?

(*g*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to announce what portion of the surplus will be allotted in the current budget towards the revision of pay and prospects of the officers of the department so as to give full effect to the scheme as recommended by the Inspector-General of Registration, Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) In 1905 the receipts of the Registration Department amounted to Rs. 12,36,553. In 1919 they were Rs. 23,90,939.

(*b*) I presume that by the amount of surplus earned by the Registration Department, the member means the amount by which receipts have exceeded expenditure. The excess since 1912 when the existing Presidency of Bengal was constituted has been as follows:—

	Rs.
1912	7,29,455
1913	8,63,613
1914	7,37,179
1915	8,10,393
1916	9,64,642
1917	9,02,992
1918	6,49,598
1919	11,25,006

(*c*) I am not aware of any such resolution.

(*d*) Yes. I fear that other officers serving in the mufassal have similar difficulties.

(*e*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*f*) and (*g*) The member is referred to my speech made on 15th March, 1921, in moving that the sum of Rs. 16,11,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "9—Registration."

Lack of waiting room for witnesses in Bhola Courts.

57. Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware that there is no shelter at Bhola in the district of Bakarganj for the persons who attend the Civil and Criminal Courts as witnesses?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking s steps to remove this grievance?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

Number of Deputy Superintendents promoted to the rank Superintendent of Police.

58. Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI: Will the Hon'ble the Mem in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state how many Dep Superintendents of Police have been promoted (both temporarily and p manently) to the rank of Superintendent during the last ten years and h many officers, so promoted, are Muhammadans?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: Nine officers of the Ben Police service (including one Assistant Commissioner of the Calcu Police) have been promoted permanently or substantively *pro temp* to the rank of Superintendent since the 1st April, 1912, and of th three are Muhammadans.

Medical College at Chittagong.

59. Munshi AYUB ALI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in cha of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that the Chittago public have been feeling the want of a medical college at Chittagong?

(*b*) What steps have the Government taken so far to establish s a college and when is it likely to be established?

(*c*) If not, are the Government at present considering the necess and advisability of establishing such a college?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: It is presum that the member refers to the scheme for a medical school, in rega to which a statement will be made in reply to the resolution recommen ing the establishment of such schools in the Rajshahi and Chittago Divisions which is to be moved at this meeting.

Broad gauge railway line to Satkhira.

60. Babu SAILAJA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will t Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works pleased to state whether the construction of the broad gauge railway li to Satkhira has been sanctioned?

(*b*) If so, when is the construction to be taken up?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Kh Bahadur: (*a*) No.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Principle of appointment in the Dacca University staff and the safeguard of Muhammadan interest.

61. Khan Bahadur KHWAJA MOHAMED AZAM: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether all the appointments in connection with the Dacca University staff have been made;

(*ii*) whether any professors, readers and lecturers have been recruited from the two colleges of Dacca, namely, the Dacca College and Jagannath College;

(*iii*) what has been the principle on which the selection has been made;

(*iv*) whether the two colleges, namely, the Dacca College and the Jagannath College, have been treated alike in the matter of the selection of the staff; and

(*v*) whether the Muhammadan interests of the two colleges have been safeguarded?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*i*) I am informed by the Vice-Chancellor, Dacca University, that all the appointments have not yet been made.

(*ii*) I am informed by the Vice-Chancellor, Dacca University, that some members of the prospective Dacca University staff have been recruited from both the institutions named.

(*iii*), (*iv*) and (*v*) The member is referred to section 50 (*1*) (*c*) of the Dacca University Act (XVIII of 1920). According to this section at any time after the passing of this Act and until such time as the authorities of the University shall have been duly constituted, teachers of the University shall be appointed by the Governor of Bengal after considering the recommendations of an Advisory Committee, consisting of the Vice-Chancellor, the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, and such other person or persons, if any, as the Governor of Bengal thinks fit to associate with them. The Vice-Chancellor informs me that His Excellency the Governor has added to this Committee—(1) the Hon'ble the Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda and the Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University. The Government of Bengal has no status with regard to this Committee and the Ministry of Education is not responsible for the selections made by the Committee.

Report of the reorganisation of subordinate educational service.

62. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state when the Committee for the reorganisation of the subordinate educational service submitted their report and when the report is likely to be available to the public?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: The report is under the consideration of Government, whose decisions in the matter will be published as soon as possible.

Facilities to Muhammadan Government servants for Friday prayers.

63. SHAH SYED EMADADUL HAQ: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether there is any order by the Government of Bengal to allow facilities to Muhammadan Government servants to say their "Friday prayers"?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: Yes; the member is referred to the reply given to Maulvi Fazlal Karim's starred question No. XVIII at the meeting of the Council of the 21st February, 1921.

Agricultural officers for districts.

64. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state how many and which of the districts in this province have not as yet got District Agricultural Officers?

(*b*) When will these districts be provided with such officers?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Every district in the province, except the Chittagong Hill Tracts, has got a District Agricultural Officer.

(*b*) Shortly.

Bulli bil scheme.

65. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether the Bulli bil scheme as prepared by the local officers can be published for public information?

(*b*) Does the scheme contemplate a sluice or lock gate?

(*c*) Will the scheme, as prepared, permit the passage of country boats throughout the channel?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR OF BURDWAN: (*a*) No. Because the scheme is in the rough and will require the scrutiny of, and revision by the department concerned.

(*b*) and (*c*) These questions do not arise at present for the reasons state in (*a*).

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: When the department has finished the scrutiny and revision contemplated in the answer to part (*a*) of the question, will the scheme be published for public information?

Will the answers to parts (*b*) and (*c*) of the question be given after the said scrutiny?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I cannot promise when this scheme will be published.

Rent court cases.

66. Babu JOGENDRA KRISHNA ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to publish a statement showing—

(*a*) the total number of cases decided by the Controller of Rent since the Rent Act came into operation up to end of December, 1920;

(*b*) the number of cases that were decided in favour of tenants;

(*c*) the number of cases that were decided in favour of the landlords;

(*d*) the number of cases in which the standard rent was fixed at more than 25 per cent. of the rent paid in 1913; and

(*e*) the largest number of cases conducted by any one pleader, with his name?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) 1,056.

(*b*) 433.

(*c*) 209.

The numbers shown in the replies to clauses (*b*) and (*c*) do not include 88 cases which have been sent to the Tribunal and 326 cases which have been disposed of in other ways, *e.g.*, by amicable settlement or withdrawal.

(*d*) 113.

(*e*) One hundred and forty-three cases were conducted by Babu Hiralal Ganguli, vakil.

Expenditure on the Bangabasi defamation case.

67. Babu JOGENDRA KRISHNA ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether the expenditure on the case of Inspector Dwijendra Nath Ghose, of Rangpur, against the newspaper *Bangabasi* is being defrayed out of public money?

(*b*) If so, what is the reason that induced the Government to spend the public money in this particular case?

(*c*) What is the approximate amount that has up to date been spent on this case?

(*d*) From which head of the Budget is the money being defrayed?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) After inquiries made Government decided that they were justified in defraying the cost of the suit and in defending one of their officers from false charges relating to the discharge of his official duties. The suit has been decided in favour of the plaintiff, to whom damages and costs have been awarded.

(*c*) A sum of Rs. 90,003 has been expended up to date.

(*d*) The charge has been met from the budget estimate of Law and Justice under the head "Legal Remembrancer and High Court Pleaders—Fees to pleaders in criminal cases."

Projected canal from river Damodar at Panagar running from west to east.

68. Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation aware that the project of a canal from the river Damodar at Panagar, running from west to east, between the Damodar and the East Indian Railway, has been repeatedly pressed on the attention of Government by various public bodies and for the last time on the 9th January, 1918?

(*b*) How far has the project of a canal from the river Damodar at Panagar, running from east to west, between the Damodar and the East Indian Railway as a preventive measure against failure of crops during a season of insufficient rainfall advanced since the 9th January, 1918, and what would be the length of the proposed canal and what amount has been spent from the beginning up to date in its survey?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The revised Damodar canal project was submitted to the Government of India at the end of November, 1920. The length of the main canal proposed is 26·6 miles, besides branch canals and distributary channels. The expenditure on survey and investigations amounts to Rs. 8,073 only.

The Lawrence de Souza Civil Service Scholarship.

69. Mr. H. A. STARK: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of European Education be pleased to state what is the annual value of the Lawrence de Souza Civil Service Scholarship of which the Official Trustee of Bengal is administrator?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state after the lapse of how many years the said scholarship has been recently awarded?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state how many candidates made application for the said scholarship last January?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what means were dopted by the Official Trustee to give publicity to the pending award of he said scholarship?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether in warding the said scholarship last January, the Official Trustee conulted the Director of Public Instruction, or the Inspector of European chools, Bengal, or the Council of the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled uropean Association, Bengal, Limited?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what procedure vas adopted by the Official Trustee, in awarding the said scholarship ast January?

(*g*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether as a natter of fact any rules and regulations have been framed for the guilance of the Official Trustee and the general public in the matter of the Lawrence de Souza Civil Service Scholarship, and, if not, whether Government are considering the desirability of appointing a committee to repare a scheme for the control of the said scholarship?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT OF EUROPEAN EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): (*a*) The officiating Official Trustee reports that the annual value of the Lawrence de Souza Civil Service Scholarship is Rs. 5,818-11-4, that being the income now derived from the original Fund set apart for this scholarship, together with subsequent accumulations.

(*b*) The Official Trustee reports that the scholarship has never been awarded, as the funds have not been sufficient to meet the purpose for which the Trust was created. The Official Trustee adds that the funds are now only barely sufficient after years of accumulation.

(*c*) No candidate applied for the scholarship in January last.

(*d*), (*e*) and (*f*) The following statement has been received from the officiating Official Trustee:—

The funds representing the bequest were made over to the Official Trustee in pursuance of an order of the High Court, dated the 15th of January 1888, since when, owing to there being no applications by would-be candidates for the benefit of the Fund, the income of the Fund has been allowed to accumulate until it has reached the present figure of Rs. 1,57,500 in Government securities It would also seem that a further reason for the income of the Fund being allowed to accumulate was that the various incumbents of the post of Official Trustee have considered that in view of the fact that the income was not sufficient for the purpose for which the Trust was created, it should be accumulated When, however, Mr. Kinney investigated the details of this Trust, shortly after being appointed Official Trustee, he came to the conclusion that as the income was then sufficient to enable the objects of the Trust to be carried out, he would not be justified in allowing the income to accumulate any longer. With the object of carring out this Trust, as directed by the will of Lawrence de Souza, he entered into communication with

Mr. Pickford, who was then actively interested in the welfare of the Calcutta Do ciled Community, and with the Director of Public Instruction. Nothing mate having been done, Mr. Kinney, on the 11th March, 1920, wrote to Mr Leslie, senior member of the firm of Leslie and Hinds, the President of the Anglo-Ind and Domiciled European Association, giving him full particulars and suggest that an application should be made to the Court for directions since he could longer allow the fund to remain unutilised. Further correspondence ensued, nothing material was arrived at. Towards the end of 1920, Mr. Adcock, Princ of La Martinière School, who had been in communication with Messrs. Leslie Hinds, urged before me the qualifications of one Vernon Cyril Prins as a boy not only came under the designation of Anglo-Indian, but from his schola qualification, as well as his general character as disclosed in Mr Adco letter of the 15th December last (a copy of which I enclose) was fully qualifie be awarded the scholarship Mr. Adcock at the same time inquired if there w be any delay in making the selection as, owing to the boy's age, it was necess he should be sent to England at once, otherwise his chances might be serio affected. I informed Mr. Adcock that I thought that I had the power to m the selection myself, but that before doing so I would consult my solicit Messrs Leslie and Hinds, which I did, and they confirmed my opinion that I the power to make the selection. In making this selection I was fully awar t public advertisements had not been issued intimating the intended award of scholarship, and that, had such advertisements been issued, possibly more ca dates would have come forward. But it did not follow that those candida would have been more eligible, or even as eligible as Vernon Cyril Prins Mr. Adcock's statement in his letter "a performance which has been equalled only one other boy in India . . . and he is not a candidate for the scholarship this occasion " Had I waited to advertise and thereby delayed the selection so t it was too late for Vernon Cyril Prins to avail himself of the scholarship, I m have had no eligible candidate to select for the scholarship and I would have myself open to the serious charge of neglecting my duties as a trustee

A copy of the letter referred to above from Mr. Adcock, *i. e.*, of t 15th December, 1920, to the address of the Official Trustee of Bengal. laid on the table.

(*g*) The officiating Official Trustee of Bengal reports that "no rul and regulations have been framed in connection with the selection of t candidate for this scholarship, as, under the terms of Lawrence de Souz will, the selection was left to the executor." He, however, thinks th in order to avoid misunderstandings in the future, it would be advisa to have this done, and he proposes to take steps to have rules fram with the help of the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Associati and other bodies representing Anglo-Indian interests. But he points o that the scheme cannot be carried into effect without the sanction of t Court.

With reference to the question generally, I desire to explain that th matter at issue is the concern of the Official Trustee of Bengal and th the Education Department of Bengal is in no way responsible for th officer. The Official Trustee of Bengal comes under the general superv sion of the Judicial Department of this Government.

Copy of the letter referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 69 (d), (e) and (f).

Dated the 15th December, 1920.

From—W. R. C. ADCOCK, ESQ., M.A., LL.B., BAR-AT-LAW, Principal, La Martiniere College, Calcutta,

To—The Official Trustee of Bengal, Calcutta.

With reference to the Will of the late Lawrence Augustus de Souza, I have the honour to recommend Vernon Cyril Prins, for the scholarship provided under paragraph 23 of the Will for an East Indian youth to study in England for the Indian Civil Service. The boy is an East Indian, which was the official expression for persons of mixed European and Indian blood now usually known as Anglo-Indian.

2. First, as to the boy's suitability for the Indian Civil Service if he should be successful in the competition, I may mention that he is a most efficient monitor, and for some months has been Captain of the school. In this position he has shown himself tactful and capable and a good disciplinarian, and he has exercised a particularly good influence at a very difficult time. He has also done excellent work as senior non-commissioned officer of the school contingent of the Indian Defence Force and as Captain of the Rugby Football, he is the champion swimmer of the school.

3. In the Cambridge Higher School Certificate Examination held last July, the results of which have just been announced, he passed in his group (Latin and English) and in the maximum number of subsidiary subjects (History, Logic, Physical Geography)—a performance which has been equalled by only one other boy in India, who is also at La Martiniere, and is not a candidate for the scholarship on this occasion. He has previously taken our highest prizes for English Literature and for Latin. The Cambridge Higher School Certificate Examination was instituted only three years ago and is intended for English public school boys of the age for leaving for a University. I consider therefore that this boy should have a reasonable chance of success in the open competition if he proceeds to Cambridge at once and takes the special course provided under University auspices for the I. C. S. Examination. Under the conditions recently announced he will be eligible to compete in August 1923.

Scarcity of drinking water in Manikganj and Munshiganj.

70. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to say whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the scarcity of drinking water during the dry season in the interior villages within the subdivisions of Manikganj and Munshiganj in the district of Dacca, and if so, what steps they propose to take for providing the villagers with good and sufficient drinking water?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: The Chairman of the Dacca District Board reports that the Board is doing its best to increase the number of wells and tanks so far as the resources at its command permit.

A statement is laid on the table showing the amounts spent by the District Board on water-supply in the two subdivisions during the last five years.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 70, show the amounts spent by the Dacca District Board during the last f years on water supply.

SUBDIVISION.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19	1919-20.	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs
Munshiganj	9,681	4,755	7,846	7,673	9,673	39,62
Manikganj	12,326	11,399	16,746	14,215	15,653	70,33

Silting up of a khal in Bhola subdivision.

71. Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Memb in charge of the Department of Irrigation aware that the *khal* runni through the subdivision of Bhola is almost silted up, causing there great hindrance to trade and inconvenience to the public?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of takin any steps to improve the situation in the near future?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR o BURDWAN: (*a*) There is no information on the silting up of the *kh* running through the subdivision of Bhola.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Exodus of the cultivating class from Dacca and Mymensingh to districts of Assam.

72. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Is the Hon'bl the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue aware of the great exodus for some time past of the cultivating class from the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh to the Goalpara and Nowgong districts of the province of Assam?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that a very large number of these people are returning in a perfectly destitute condition and attacked with black water fever and similar diseases?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state to what this exodus is due?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of having an inquiry made into this matter and of publishing the result of it for general information?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) It is a fact that for some time past there has been a

considerable emigration of cultivators from parts of Dacca and Mymensingh districts to districts in the province of Assam.

(*b*) It is true that many emigrants return owing to black water fever and other forms of disease, and some return in a destitute condition.

(*c*) The emigration is due to the attractions of low rent and fertile lands in Assam.

(*d*) It has not been proposed to make such an inquiry.

Sale of "peshkosh jama" and the amount realised therefrom in the Midnapore district.

73. Babu SARAT CHANDRA JANAH: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether the Board of Revenue has issued any orders to the officer in charge of the Khas Mahal Department in the district of Midnapore to persuade the tenants to buy up the *peshkosh jama* of less than a rupee in value at twenty-five times its premium?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member lay a copy of the said order on the table?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the *peshkosh jama* of the value of less than a rupee is being realised by the certificate procedure?

(*d*) How many certificates have been issued for the realisation of the *peshkosh jama* in the district of Midnapore in the years 1918-19, 1919-20 and 1920-21?

(*e*) What is the total number of *peshkosh jama* that has been surrendered at a premium?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) and (*b*) A copy of the Board's letter No. 4050 G. E., dated the 6th December, 1917, to the address of the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, is placed on the table. This shows that the proprietor's approval was taken in every case before commutation was made.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) 1918-19	...	630
1919-20	...	269
1920-21	...	3,248

(*e*) The total number of *peshkosh jamas* surrendered at premium is 4,753.

Copy of the letter referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 7. and (b).

No. 4050 G. E., dated Calcutta, the 6th December 1917.

From—D. H. WARES, ESQ., I.C.S., Secretary to the Board of Reve Bengal.

To—The Commissioner of the Burdwan Division.

I am directed to refer to your letter No. 49 R. G., dated the 20th June 1917, subsequent correspondence, submitting a proposal, for the approval of the Boar compound, with the consent of the payers, by payment of a lump sum at the rat 25 years' purchase, the petty demands under one rupee of *peshkosh* due to the prietors of the Majnamutha and Jalamutha estates in the district of Midnapore

In reply, I am to say that the Board, in consultation with the Legal Rem brancer, accepts the proposal and directs that the proprietors' approval be obta before carrying it into effect.

The operation of the Dacca University Act and the appointment, pay allowance of the Vice-Chancellor.

74. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: (*a*) Will the Hon' the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to whether the Dacca University Act, 1920 (Act XVIII of 1920), has c into operation?

(*b*) Is it a fact that a Vice-Chancellor of the Dacca University been appointed before the Dacca University Act has come into operati

(*c*) If any Vice-Chancellor has been appointed, what is the rate pay and allowance, if any?

(*d*) What is the estimated annual cost for maintenance of the Da University and what will be the maximum number of students in said University?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) and (*b*) The member is refer to the Dacca University Act (XVIII of 1920). A notification in t *Gazette of India* directing that the Dacca University Act has come shall come into force has not yet been issued or in accordance with t terms of section 1 (2) of that Act. His attention is invited to the prov contained in the above-quoted section, which runs: "Save as otherw expressly provided herein."

The Vice-Chancellor has been appointed in accordance with secti 49 of the Dacca University Act.

(*c*) The member is referred to the reply given to starred question N XVIII (*i*) at the meeting of this Council held on the 1st April, 1921.

(*d*) The Vice-Chancellor has estimated the recurring expenditu for 1921-22 at Rs. 7 lakhs, but is endeavouring to reduce it in view of t amount voted by the Legislative Council. The Vice-Chancellor inform me that no maximum in regard to the number of students has been fixe at present.

Contributions for Gumti river embankment.

75. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any contributions will be levied on the people for the embankment of the Gumti river in the Tippera district;

(*ii*) if so, from which class of person and at what rate?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:

(*i*) Yes

(*ii*) From zamindars and tenure-holders of estates benefited under rules laid down in Part IV of the Bengal Embankment Act, II of 1882, and at rates which will be apportioned by the Collector under the provisions of that Act.

Holding of court at Bagerhat.

76. Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department aware that the Subdivisional Officer of Bagerhat holds court far into the night?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that this causes great inconvenience to parties and pleaders?

(*c*) What action, if any, are the Government taking in the matter?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: Allegations to this effect were brought to the notice of Government last September, and the Commissioner reported that the Subdivisional Officer had been irregular in his court hours and had been warned.

Number and recruitment of Kanungoes: arrangements for their pension and increase in their pay.

77. Maulvi MUHAMMAD RAFIQUE UDDIN KHAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revnue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state the total number of Kanungoes in the Settlement Department in Bengal, and how many of them were recruited from the permanent and pensionable service of other departments and what arrangements have been made for their pension?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table statements showing the surplus amount in deposit after meeting the expenses of the settlement operations in the districts of Mymensingh, Faridpur, Dacca, Barisal and Chittagong?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be kind enough to say why the pay of the settlement Kanungoes has not been increased as in the case of all other departments?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) The total number of Kanungoes in the Settlement Department is 302; five were recruited from permanent and pensionable service in other departments; contributions are regularly levied from the Settlement Department for their pension.

(*b*) There is no surplus amount in deposit after meeting the cost of settlement operations in the districts of Mymensingh, Faridpur Dacca, Bakarganj and Chittagong, as all recoveries under section 11 of the Bengal Tenancy Act were credited direct to the Government of India.

(*c*) The pay of the settlement Kanungoes was revised in 1915.

Director of Information.

78. Babu SAILAJA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state the special qualifications for which the present incumbent in the post of Director of Information was appointed?

(*b*) Was any application invited for the post?

(*c*) If so, when, and how?

(*d*) If not, why not?

(*e*) Is there a Director of Information in either of the Presidencies of Bombay and Madras or in any other Indian province?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) Reference is invited to "Who's Who" of 1920, an extract from which is laid on the table.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) It was not considered necessary.

(*e*) There is a whole-time officer in charge of publicity work in Bombay, Madras, Punjab, Burma, and a part-time officer in Bihar and Orissa.

Extract from "Who's Who—1920," referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 78 (a).

STORY, DOUGLAS.—Author and Journalist; Captain, 5th (Reserve Battalion) Middlesex Regiment; born in Edinburgh on 31st December 1872; eldest son of Dan F. Story J.P., Peebleshire; educated at George Watson's College and University Edinburgh; *Daily Mail* war correspondent with the Boers, South African War 1899-1900; *Daily Express* war correspondent with the Russians, Russo-Japanese War 1904-05; *New York Herald* special correspondent with the present King through Canada, 1901; *Tribune* special correspondent, Egypt, Siam, China, Japan, Russia and South Africa, 1905-08; special correspondent for various syndicated newspapers Russia, Siberia and India; editor of various journals in London, New York, Johannesburgh, and Hong Kong; Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, Army Headquarters, India, 1916-18; Shipping Controller in India, 1918-19. Publications Tor

Miles from Anywhere, 1895; The Drift of the Day, 1902; The Campaign with Kuropatkin, 1904; To-morrow in the East, 1907. Address—Office of the Shipping Controller, Ballard Road, Bombay. Telegraphic address—No. 4120, T. A. Depship

Proportion of nominated members on municipal boards and ballot-voting in election.

79. Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) what will be the proportion of nominated members on the boards of the municipalities in Bengal after the Reforms have been introduced, supplanting the old practice of nomination at the proportion of one-third of the strength of such boards; and

(*ii*) when do the Government propose to follow in practice, either by amending the existing law or by making new rules, the suggestion given in the Report on Indian Constitutional Reforms —*vide* paragraph 194 *ibid* (page 126)?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of introducing the system of voting by ballot in the election of municipalities?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) The Bengal Municipal Act fixes the proportion of elected Municipal Commissioners at two-thirds, and of appointed Municipal Commissioners at one-third, and these proportions must be followed so long as the Act is in operation. It is proposed to amend the Act, and the question of reducing the proportion of appointed Commissioners will be considered in connection with its amendment.

(*b*) Government are considering the question.

Number of Deputy Magistrates promoted to the rank of Magistrate.

80. Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state how many Deputy Magistrates have been promoted (both temporarily and permanently) to the rank of Magistrate during the last ten years, and how many of them are Muhammadans?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: Since the reconstitution of this Presidency on the 1st April, 1912, eleven Deputy Magistrates, of whom one is a Muhammadan, have been promoted permanently to the rank of Magistrate.

Excluding the eleven officers noted above, twenty-nine Deputy Magistrates, of whom three were Muhammadans, have officiated as District or Additional District Magistrates.

Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI: Are no more Muhammadan officers available for promotion to higher ranks?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I could not answer a general question in that form without reference to individuals.

Amount to be spent for buildings, roads, etc., in use by reserved and transferred departments.

81. Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state the amount proposed to be spent during 1921-22 on—

(1) Original Civil Works,

(2) Communications,

(3) Miscellaneous Public Improvements, and

(4) Repairs,

specially for buildings, roads, etc., in use by reserved and transferred departments?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*1*) The total demand for "Original Works—Civil Buildings" is shown on page 134 of the Budget estimate to be Rs. 74,68,000. This sum is made up of—

	Rs.
(*a*) New Major Works—Appendix B—*vide* pages 62 and 63 of the Budget Review ...	20,05,000
(*b*) Minor Works grant for Civil Buildings, Rs. 5,00,000—*vide* page 62 of the Budget Review, from which should be deducted Rs. 25,000 for Communications, Rs. 8,000 for Miscellaneous Public Improvements and Rs. 4,000 for Irrigation, leaving ...	4,63,000
(*c*) Works in progress—*vide* Budget notes of 2nd March, 1921, Form B	50,00,000
Total ...	74,68,000

The statements referred to show the distribution under the various Departments of Government, both "reserved" and "transferred."

(*2*) and (*3*) The total demand for Original Works—Communications, is Rs. 8,25,000 and for Miscellaneous Public Improvements, Rs. 3,08,000—*vide* page 134 of the Budget estimate.

These demands are on behalf of the "transferred" Department of Public Works (Roads and Buildings Branch).

(*d*) The total demand for Repairs is Rs. 11,50,000, which is intended to meet charges for repairs and maintenance of works pertaining to both " reserved " and " transferred " departments. The detailed Repairs Budget has not been finally prepared, as the total amount available for repairs has only recently been voted by the Council.

A copy of the Repairs Budget will be placed on the library table as soon as it has been printed.

Externment of Mr. C. R. Das from Mymensingh.

82. Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department aware that a great amount of public resentment and general sensation has been provoked by the externment order served on Mr. C. R. Das, prohibiting his entrance into the headquarters station of the Mymensingh district?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the lawyers of the said district have temporarily suspended their practice, and that a considerable number of the candidates for the Matriculation examination at the Mymensingh centre have come out of their examination hall, and that a general *hartal*, or strike, has been observed by shop-keepers coolies and others, as a protest against the said action of the district executive?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to give the reasons and circumstances which led the Additional District Magistrate of the said district to take such a step?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what steps have been taken to allay the intense public feeling roused by this proceeding?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) The order has been criticised in various papers and on various platforms.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The member is referred to the answer given to starred question No. XX.

(*d*) The order prohibiting Mr. Das from taking part in public meetings in Mymensingh town was cancelled by the Additional District Magistrate on the 5th March, after the conclusion of the Matriculation examination. As already stated, the order prohibiting his entry into Mymensingh had already been cancelled soon after it was served on Mr. Das. Action throughout was taken by the local officers responsible for the peace of the district; and Government do not consider any further steps are necessary.

Externment and other orders on Mr. C. R. Das and others.

83. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state

whether the Government are aware that orders under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code were served on Mr. C. R. Das and orders under sections 107 and 104 were served on Babu Manomohan Niyogi and Maulvi Tejbuddin Ahmed by the Additional Magistrate of Mymensingh during the first week of March, 1921?

(*b*) What was the nature and the source of information or materials on the basis of which such orders were passed?

(*c*) Were the orders passed with the knowledge and approval of the District Magistrate of Mymensingh or of any superior authority and with the knowledge and authority of the Government?

(*d*) What were the reasons for which the orders were subsequently rescinded?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the Calcutta High Court has held that an order similar to the one passed on Mr. C. R. Das under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code was *ultra vires* and illegal?

(*f*) Are the Government contemplating taking any action in regard to the future issue of such orders?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) Reference is invited to the answer given to starred question XX.

(*d*) As soon as the Matriculation examination was over the Magistrate considered that the orders were no longer necessary.

(*e*) The question is too vaguely framed to permit of the identification of the ruling of the High Court to which reference is apparently made.

(*f*) Government do not contemplate the issue of any general orders in this connection.

Status, pay and prospects of the copyists in Collectorates, Magistracies and civil courts.

84. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department, be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the income from, and expenditure on, the copying departments of—

(*i*) Collectorates;

(*ii*) Magistracies; and

(*iii*) Civil Courts,

during the years 1915-16 to 1919-20?

(*b*) Is it a fact that copyists in the Collectorate are required to assist the Record-Keepers, besides doing the work of copying?

(*c*) Is it a fact that for this extra work they receive no additional remuneration?

(*d*) If not, why not?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the copyists are or are not regarded as ministerial officers?

(*f*) Was the case of the copyists placed before the Committee on the salary of ministerial officers?

(*g*) Has the said Committee made any recommendations regarding the copyists?

(*h*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the Government received any representation from the copyists and typists for co-opting them as regular members of the ministerial staff of the Government with graded pay, promotion and pension, etc., such as other ministerial officers enjoy?

(*i*) If so, what action have the Government taken or what action do they propose to take in the matter?

(*j*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether any special allowance was granted to the copyists on account of high prices?

(*k*) If the answer to clause (*e*) is in the negative, are the Government considering the desirability of asking the McAlpin Committee, or appointing a new Committee to recommend measures for improving the status and remuneration of the copyists?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) The member is referred to the reply given to unstarred question No. 8 of the Hon'ble Babu Akhil Chandra Datta at the meeting of the Council on the 1st September, 1920. The figures for 1920 are not yet available.

(*b*) The rule is given in the Bengal Records Manual, rule 324, which is as follows:—

Copyists and typists shall be given to understand that after they have earned the minimum above stated (vernacular copyists Rs. 15 per month English copyists Rs 25 per month and typists Rs. 50) and where no copies for which payment has been made remain to be taken in hand, their spare time will be at the disposal of Government for such unremunerative copying as may be found necessary.

(*c*) and (*d*) These questions are answered by the rule quoted above.

(*e*), (*f*) and (*g*) The typists and copyists are certainly miniterial officers, but their case was not referred to the Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee as they are paid by fees and are not on the regularly paid permanent establishment. Hence the Committee made no recommendation regarding them.

(*h*) Yes.

(*i*) The matter is under consideration in consultation with the High Court.

(*j*) No.

(*k*) The member is referred to the replies to clauses (*e*), (*f*) and (*g*).

Litigation in districts where survey and settlement operations have been completed.

85. Babu NALINI NATH ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to show in a tabular form the amount of litigation, year by year, in the districts where survey and settlement operations have been completed, from three years before the survey and settlement operations up till now?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The member is referred to the reports of the High Court on the administration of Civil and Criminal Justice.

Hostel for Moslem students of the Chittagong College.

86. Munshi AYUB ALI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to say whether the Government are aware of the fact that the Moslem students of the Chittagong College reside in a small tin shed boarding-house with bamboo walls?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that this place is unhealthy and of insufficient accommodation?

(*c*) Are the Government making arrangements for erecting a building on the lines of the Government Hindu Hostel of the Chittagong College, sufficient to accommodate the Moslem students of the College?

(*d*) If so, what have the Government done in regard to this matter up to date and when will the actual construction take place?

(*e*) If this matter has not been taken up previously, are the Government at present considering the desirability of building a hostel for the Moslem students of the Chittagong College?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) A reference is invited to the answer to a similar question put by the Hon'ble Khan Sahib Aman Ali at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 22nd January, 1918. Government are aware that the hostel is a *kutcha* house. The Principal reports it to be in no way unsatisfactory.

(*b*) No complaint has been made to the authorities that the hostel is unhealthy. The hostel has accommodation for 22 students, but the number in residence on 31st December, 1920, was 20. Additional accommodation for 30 students has also been provided in a house hired at a rent of Rs. 60 a month, but only 17 boarders were in residence there on 31st December, 1920.

(*c*) and (*d*) Yes. Plans and estimates for the construction of a hostel were called for in August last. Efforts will be made to finance the scheme when it is complete.

(*e*) The attention of the member is directed to the answers given to questions (*c*) and (*d*).

New bridge at Howrah.

87. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Marine Department be pleased to state the probable cost of the proposed new bridge at Howrah to replace the existing old one and whether it is the intention of the Government to pay any portion of the cost from public revenues?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: The cost of a new bridge at Howrah will depend on the type to be adopted, and this question has not yet been decided. Fluctuations in the cost of material make it impossible to frame any reliable estimates at present, but it has been roughly calculated that at current rates, an adequate bridge of the floating type would cost about £2,000,000 and a single-span bridge about £3,000,000. No decision has yet been come to regarding the method of financing the project.

[NOTE.—The following statement is referred to in the reply given by the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan to starred question No XI asked by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri at the meeting of the 21st February, 1921, showing the total number of appeals and petitions received and disposed of by the Board during the calendar years 1906—1920.]

YEAR.	Number of appeals received.	Number of petitions received.	NUMBER OF APPEALS.		NUMBER OF PETITIONS.	
			Allowed.	Disallowed.	Allowed.	Disallowed
1	2	3	4(a)	4(b)	5(a)	5(b)
1906 ...	63	138	14	51	19	127
1907 ...	45	150	5	36	30	111
1908 .	114	117	28	86	8	109
1909 ...	34	220	10	24	12	208
1910 ...	10	166	6	4	10	156
1911 ...	25	123	2	23	25	98
1912 ...	15	157	...	15	10	147
1913 ...	18	121	...	12	12	111
1914 ...	27	137	7	23	29	120
1915 ...	8	121	2	8	8	136
1916 ...	25	124	9	14	19	78
1917 ...	24	95	4	15	41	84
1918 ...	13	98	6	13	15	80
1919 ...	25	197	6	10	19	139
1920 ...	51	383	6	21	75	238

Discussion of matter of urgent public importance.

Grave state of affairs in regard to the Police Force.

Mr. C. W. RHODES: I ask permission of the House for an adjournment for the purpose of discussing a matter of urgent public importance, that is to say, the grave state of affairs with regard to the police force as disclosed by the replies to the questions put by Mr. S. R. Das.

The PRESIDENT: This motion is in order and has not been disallowed by His Excellency the Governor under rule 22.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: May I rise to a point of order? Under section 80, sub-clause (*iii*), I think the motion is not in order, because it says that the motion must not revive discussion on a matter which has been discussed in the same session.

The PRESIDENT: I think this matter is not the same; when the Budget discussion took place a sum of Rs. 23,00,000 was reduced from the police budget, but here the question is to draw the attention of the House to the grave situation that has arisen from that decision. Is there any objection to leave being given for the adjournment of the house?

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Yes.

The PRESIDENT: Those who are in favour of the motion will please stand in their seats.

The Secretary then counted the number of members standing as 35.

The PRESIDENT: As more than 30 members have risen, leave is given under section 83 of our rules; and I fix 5 o'clock to-day for the discussion.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: May I rise to a point of order? If the House is adjourned for this particular purpose, how can we proceed with the other matters?

The PRESIDENT: The regular business of the Council will be interrupted at 5 o'clock for discussing this matter. Between now and 5 o'clock we can go on with ordinary business. Mr. Rhodes has only got leave of the House to move for adjournment.

Resolutions.

(under the rules for the discussion of matters of general pubilo interest).

Technological and Agricultural College.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: "This Council recommends to the Government that a technological and agricultural college on the standard of the great technological colleges affiliated to the Universities of Great Britain and America granting B. Sc., M.Sc., and D.Sc. degrees affiliated to the Calcutta University and closely related to the University as in other countries, should be established at Calcutta without delay."

At the outset I must mention that the idea of industrial schools and colleges we owe to the British Government. Committee after committee has been appointed by the Government of Bengal and the Government of India to consider the question of industrial education. The last was the great Industrial Commission. I suppose Government have spent not less than Rs. 20,00,000 upon this Commission. What I now desire is that the recommendations of that Commission should be given effect to. There is no room for uninstructed opinion in this matter. The question has been discussed threadbare upon all its bearings by those Commissions and especially by the Industrial Commission. Therefore, we have only to take the conclusions of that Commission. We have also the recent University Commission, upon which a very large sum of money has been spent, and that Commission has also reported in favour of the scheme that I now propose. All that I now ask you to-day is to give effect to the recommendations of the Industrial Commission and of the University Commission and no more. The Government of India have accepted these recommendations, and now it is for you to give effect to them. If you don't you will stand condemned before the country as having played false.

Now let us see what the University Commission says after describing the results of the old Government Committee about the industrial schools and technical schools. They say:—

> While, therefore, these are institutions to be encouraged and developed within the limits specified, we regard them as altogether unsatisfactory, if employed to train artisans for organised industries.

There is no one in this Council competent to question this finding of the Industrial Commission. Let us next go to the matter of technological colleges and see what they say:—

> In the past the question of education of engineers has been too much influenced by the immediate requirements of the Public Works Department. Increasing attention has in recent years been paid to the provision of instruction in mechanical and electrical engineering, but the measures adopted are inadequate, and are conceived on altogether too narrow lines to meet the needs, present and prospective, of a rapidly expanding industrial system.

Then the Commission quote with approval the report of the Committee appointed by the Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers in England of 1905. Their recommendations are admirable and include training in a technical college. They recommend that for the average boy the period of college study should be three years, and at least three or four years should be spent in practical training. The Commission then recommend that provision should be made for the education of subordinates in separate institutions which not being of a university rank should be placed under the control of the Director of Industries—that is quite a different matter —and that should be done in the technical schools. Then they say:—It is urgently necessary to prepare for a higher technological training, which will provide the means whereby physical science students of all colleges affiliated to the Universities may learn to apply their knowledge

to industrial uses. The simplest way of meeting their demand would be to expand the engineering colleges into technological institutes by the creation of new departments. At present they are chiefly occupied in the training of civil engineers. We have since recommended that they should make provision for the higher technical instruction of mechanical and electrical engineers, and we anticipate that the industrial expansion will justify the starting of departments of general technological chemistry which in each college and teaching University will be specialised to the extent necessary to meet at any rate the more prominent local needs. We regard it as certain that public opinion will demand that these colleges should be connected with local universities, where the students will be able to obtain University degrees."

The Commission is emphatic that industrial education should be so imparted, that it may lead to University degrees. That has nothing whatsoever to do with the training of subordinates and artisans. Not in England nor in any other country, much less in India, will the *bhadralok* class like to be artisans. Brahmins, Kayasthas, Vaidyas, Maulvis and Shaikhs, will not like to be artisans. We want educated people to be overseers, engineers, and chemists and without degrees and higher course that cannot be done. My hands are weak. For generations we, *bhadralok*, have been engaged in books and we are weak I cannot be a *mistry*, but I can be an engineer. My son can be an engineer, or a chemist, but not a *mistry*. The Commission therefore rightly is very emphatic that there should be degree courses in India. The Commission says that this College for technological degrees should be provincial and not imperial. The Commission then contemplated the removal of Sibpur College. They say: "For some years past the removal of this College has been under consideration and Government has been reluctant to incur increased expenditure on the existing institution. I ought to tell you here that Government proposed to give Belvedere for a technological college instead of Sibpur College. The Sibpur property might be sold for several lakhs. Then the scheme would not have cost a very large sum of money. That has not yet been done. There are many Government properties, Kidderpore House, Hasting House, etc., all white elephants. But I am not concerned with the removal of Sibpur College just now; that is a matter of detail.

The recommendations of the University Commission were accepted by the Government of India Let us see what the University Commission says The Commission says: " . . . and we concur in the findings of the committee which was appointed by the Senate of the Calcutta University on the 13th October 1917, that it is desirable and necessary that the University should take steps to develop the teaching of agriculture, technology and commerce."

The Calcutta University only this year applied to the Government in accordance with the above recommendation for a grant to open technological and agricultural advanced classes leading to degrees. Now, Sir,

the Calcutta University at a recent meeting (the report of the proceedings has been sent to me by the Vice-Chancellor and I place it before you) say that they have got the Palit Professor of Chemistry, the Ghosh Professor of Applied Mathematics, the Palit Professor of Physics, the Ghosh Professor of Chemistry, the Ghosh Professor of Physics, the Ghosh Professor of Agricultural Botany, the Ghosh Professor of Applied Physics and the Ghosh Professor of Applied Chemistry. Then they say that the authorities of the Science College have for some time past carefully prepared a programme of work for the development of technological instruction, and its outline is as follows: It is proposed to teach Applied Chemistry, Applied Physics and Applied Botany (including Agriculture). It is proposed to undertake instruction in chemistry of leather and chemistry of dyes. Besides this, it is proposed to have arrangements for practical instruction in the manufacture of sulphuric acid, glass, paper and pulp, lime, mortar and cement, sugar, soap, candles and glycerine, plants and essential oils. For these, factory appliances like disintegrators, centrifugals, filter-presses, hydraulic presses, vacuum pans, etc., would be indispensable. These would require a grant of Rs. 2,00,000 to enable the College authorities to make a good beginning. Finally, at least Rs. 40,000 would be needed for even a small laboratory for technical analysis. The amount required for the Department of Chemistry is Rs. 4,65,000. In the Department of Applied Physics, it is intended to undertake work on Applied Electricity, in the testing and standardization of instruments, in Applied Optics, (including Illumination Engineering) in Pyrometry and in Applied Thermo-Dynamics (including a study of the efficiency of different types of heat engines). An estimate of Rs. 2,00,000 is manifestly a very modest demand for so important a work. They go on further to describe their requirements, but I am a litte tired and cannot read further.

Then they proposed to open agricultural classes. They say they only require land and they can do the rest. There is no reason why there should not be an agricultural college at Calcutta. It is said it is difficult to get land. There is plenty of land in the southern suburbs opposite the Tollygunge Club. I myself have got 500 bighas there and I am prepared to place it at the disposal of the University. The price to be payable when able. I shall wait for the payment of it when convenient. I cannot make a free gift of it as I am not rich enough. There is land south and east of the Regent Park property, which is much cheaper than my land. It can be had if required. All that I desire is this: that this resolution be accepted and that Government will appoint a committee to give effect to the recommendations of the University Commission and the Industrial Commission. That is all I desire. Money cannot be obtained this year; you will have to draw up a scheme, find lands bring eminent professors from England—I want the very best that is available in England. Money is not required this year. I have told you at the

beginning that many Government Committees, especially the Industrial Commission, have considered every conceivable matter and I need not dilate upon it and upon the objections against the granting of degrees. There is one matter which I should like to mention. There were certain officials during the time of Sir Andrew Fraser, who, when I proposed a commission for the establishment of technological degrees, opposed it on the ground that we must have industries first and then technological education. The matter went before Sir Andrew Fraser for decision. I have his letter with me telling me that he had decided the question in my favour and that technological colleges should not wait until there are sufficient industries in the country. That settled the question, but that was a long time ago. Government then decided that the degree classes should be opened at Sibpur. I have a letter from the then Director of Public Instruction stating that the classes would open in June 1907-08. Fifteen years have elapsed and the classes have not yet opened. Will the Government tell us why?

Now, Sir, I have told you all that is material. Anybody who wants to satisfy himself, will find every objection answered by the University Commission. The greatest objection to my mind is how to find employment for these graduates. Sixteen years ago the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea and myself and six other leaders of the Indian Christian and Muhammadan communities issued a manifesto establishing the Scientific and Industrial Association, one of the objects of which was to have a technological college granting degrees. Every one of those signatories is dead. Only the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath and myself survive, and I desire very much that before we two pass away, this institute should be established. For the last 16 years we have sent about 300 boys to Europe and America and we have got D.Sc.'s by the dozen, M.Sc.'s by the score, B.Sc.'s by the hundred and a large number have got technological degrees, and these gentlemen have got employment, and very high employment. Now, Sir, this is what we Bengali *bhadralok* Brahmin and Kayastha, and Vaidya and respectable Muhammadans can and will do. In this work, the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda, the Hon'ble the Maharaja of Burdwan, Babu Surendra Nath Ray and other persons, whom I see here, have all co-operated, and the thanks of the country are due to them. I am sure they will help us now.

Now, Sir, we are anxious to send boys to foreign countries for industrial degrees, for we know that without degrees they cannot get employment. Throughout India and Burma, all institutions take our boys They all want B Sc.'s, M.Sc.'s from Glasgow, Birmingham, Manchester, Boston Polytechnique, Berlin University and other institutions. Our boys want degrees. Without them they cannot find employment and the Commission knew it very well, and they recommended that, as in England so here, there should be these degrees. There is one more matter to which I wish to refer: the days for mere literary colleges and universities are gone. There are only two now, Oxford and Cambridge of that

description. Oxford has also come to have a polytechnic institute granting degrees; Cambridge alone persists in its old ways. Every two or three counties in England have got a university with technological and agricultural departments. Every state in America also has got such a University. The mainstay of a modern university is the technological department, not its literary side. Electricity, Mining, Agriculture, these are the mainstay of the universities of modern times. The old days of prose, poetry and philosophy are gone. The days of mechanical power, the power that is in electricity and other mechanical forces rule the world; other things do not count. Therefore, we must have our university moulded on the modern universities. We must have universities, but not like the ones that are being duplicated throughout India; that is mere waste of money. Let us have one university on the lines of the great universities of Europe and America. We have not even got one. Do you know the cause of the great unrest in this country? Our universities turn out clerks, pleaders and Government officials by hundreds, but thousands remain unemployed. They cry for industrial education, not for literary education. Unless and until you supply this great want this dissatisfaction will remain. Therefore, I submit that we should have a university on the lines of the great universities of Europe and America.

The PRESIDENT: The resolution that has just been moved, and the resolution that follows it, cover the same ground. I call upon Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta to move his resolution.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: This resolution, if accepted, will be provided for in the next year's Budget. To-day is the 1st of April, we are starting on a new year. This is for 1922-23. I ought to make this clear, because members may object to it, on the ground that as we are short of funds, this cannot be provided for in the year just commencing.

At first sight, my resolution looks very similar to the one moved by my friend, Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, but I hope, I shall be able to satisfy this Council, that though both of us want a technological institute in Calcutta, his views about some of the details, are, on principle, quite different from mine. First, there is the question of the agricultural college. I do not know that the great technological colleges of England and America have agricultural colleges attached to them. I must plead ignorance of American conditions, but I have some knowledge of the important technological colleges of Great Britain, and I have yet to know that the industry of agriculture forms part of these institutions. The Imperial College of Science and Technology of London, Sir John Cass's Technical Institute of Jury Street, the Great Regent Street Polytechnique, the Manchester Municipal College of Technology, the Glasgow Royal Technological College, these are the most important technological institutes of Great Britian, and I challenge my friend to say that each of these has an agricultural college attached to it. The most important agricultural colleges are situated in places like Cirencester and elsewhere, and for very good reasons. Calcutta is a large

industrial city, and it is in the fitness of things that the technological institution should be established here; but as regards an agricultural college, I should think that Dacca should have the preference, first because there is already a very large agricultural farm there, which is the nucleus of a good agricultural college, and secondly, because all the activities of the Agricultural Department are, for the present, concentrated at Dacca. Is it not proper that the first agricultural college should be at Dacca? I do not say that that there should not be more than one in the province, but let Dacca take the precedence in this matter and then the turn of Calcutta may come next.

As regards the granting of degrees to technological students, I must confess that I have a dread of degrees. When the B. Sc. degree was first introduced into the Calcutta University, I was an Arts Course student in the Presidency College and I envied my Scientific fellow-students on having chalked out a new path for themselves. Much water has flowed past the Hooghly since then, and now, we have the sorry spectacle of B. Sc., B. L.'s roaming away from their scientific career, drawn into the ever-widening current of the legal profession. I am really afraid of the technological graduates toying with the same tempting profession. In Great Britain, where degrees have no such peculiar charm as in Bengal, a large number of technological students are satisfied with their college certificates. They do not aspire after degrees. What is a degree after all? It is but the guinea stamp; education—practical training, that is the real gold. In this country, unfortunately, the University degree has a fascination of its own—degree for degree's sake—which is proving a source of discontent and danger; and I should prefer that the industrial students, at any rate, should keep aloof from the temptation of degrees and the mania of degree hunting.

Then I must confess, I do not understand what the Rai Bahadur means by proposing to have the technological college closely related to the Calcutta University. I have all respect for this University. I have studied in it, but I am mortally afraid of bringing an industrial institution in close relation to the academic atmosphere and financial strain of this University. The advantages of close relationship with a large university are dubious. I should like to mention the case of the Imperial College of Science of London, and ask the members of this Council to draw their own conclusions. This large institute—a technological institute—is affiliated to the London University in the sense that its students may, if they like, appear for degree examinations of that University. That is all the connection and nothing more. Lord Haldane and Sir William Ramsay, both well-known and estimable gentlemen, tried hard some years ago to bring this institute into closer relationship with the London University. The Managing Committee of this institute at once scented danger and said in effect:—"We are much obliged to the London University for its great interest in our welfare, but we should much prefer to keep our finance and management in our

own hands. The London University has many big schemes in hand, if our finances get mixed up with theirs, we are afraid we may have to go to the wall." I shall not labour this point any more. I request this Council to remember that "close relationship" with the Calcutta University may not be at all a bed of roses for this newly-established technological institute.

I find that Dr. H. Suhrawardy has sent in an amendment referring the matter to a Committee. I have long heard the political maxim—that if you want to shelve a matter, refer it to a committee. We have had enough of industrial committees and commissions, and don't want any more. Nearly 20 years ago, Sir John Hewett of the United Provinces said:—"The question of technical and industrial education has been before the Government and the public for over 20 years. There is probably no subject on which more has been written or said, while less has been accomplished." That was 20 years ago, and 20 more have passed, and we are in the same position as we were before. In 1912 a committee drew up a cut and dried scheme for a technological institute in Calcutta. Has the scheme matured? Is it desirable that we should launch on fresh committees for more voluminous reports? I appeal to Dr. Suhrawardy to save us from the benefit of these committees.

To come now to my resolution, what is the sort of technological institution that I want? It seems to me that there is some confusion in some minds as to what is actually meant by technological and technical education. I have often heard technological confused with technical education. Technical education is a broad and vague term. It means education that fits a person for the practice of any handicraft, art or profession. By technological, is meant that branch of knowledge which deals with the development of industries, an education that trains the person to develop the industries of the country. The carpenter, the blacksmith, the foreman-mechanic, the engineer, have all got technical education; but the manufacturer of paper, glass, sugar, pottery, is the real technologist. These are the people who have got real technological training. All technologists have, of course, to get technical training, but all technically trained men are not technologists. As has been pointed out in the report of the Calcutta University Commission "technology must not be confused with that of training foremen and other servants of the scientific industries." I have gone into some detail regarding the matter, because our ignorance has landed us in a position of utter helplessness in the matter of the technical school that is going to be established in Calcutta.

In answer to a question put by Babu Akhil Chandra Dutta regarding technological institutions, on the 19th November, 1919, Government replied that they were determined to establish a technical school which might ultimately expand into a technological institute. And we, like ignorant people, were content with this reply. Does this Council know

what this precious technical school is like? In 1919, when a scheme for a technological school was launched, an estimate of Rs. 10,00,000 was thought too much, and, in 1920, we find that for a mere technical school a sum of Rs. 8,00,000 has already been spent and more asked for in this year's Budget. What is the technical school for? This is to provide theoretical training for the apprentices of the large engineering firms in Calcutta. What are the subjects to be taught there? Drawing, Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Heat Engines, Electro-technics and Building Construction. These very subjects have been taught at Sibpur and many other engineering colleges. What is the good of launching on a scheme of Rs. 8,00,000 or more to give some theoretical training to some apprentices of European firms in Calcutta? I should like to read out to you the syllabus of what is taught in a real technological college, the Royal Technological College of Glasgow. These are some of the subjects taught:—Sugar manufacture, Textile manufacture, Dyeing, Bleaching, Calico-printing, Boiler-making, Sheet metal work, Tanning, Watch and Clock-making, even Bread-making, and Tailoring, and a host of other real industries. This is the real technology and this is the sort of instruction that we want. This is what Glasgow teaches her children. Is it any wonder that Scotchmen take the lead in the industrial development of the world? What is this Calcutta technical school compared to this? Is it not a mere camouflage foisted on us because of our ignorance? The Calcutta evening school has been doing this work for the apprentices of these Calcutta firms for many years past. The cost to the Government for the work was very small and now, for this very work, Government is launching into a very great deal of unnecessary expense. We do not need a technical school like this; let the Sibpur College be expanded for this purpose; we want a real technological school. India is a country of vast potential possibilities with its abundant supply of raw material, and we want to develop these raw materials and build up great industries here, as is being done in every civilised country in the world. We want Indians to make themselves fit everywhere not merely as labourers, but as leaders who will turn their attention to industrial enterprise and equip themselves for the great industrial regeneration of India; that is what we want. This was a wish expressed by His Excellency Lord Chelmsford himself; but how can that wish be fulfilled if no facilities are given to equip our men and train them up as leaders of industries?

Bengal is rich in raw materials, such as vegetable seeds, bamboo, grass, straw, sugarcane, hides, clay and many other things, and I have it on the authority of one of the best Indian industrial experts—a D. Sc. of London—that the following industries may be very successfully developed here:—Vegetable oils (fixed and essential), paper, sugar, molasses, fermentation of grains, starches, tanning, pottery, glass, shellac, soap and glycerine. When there are possibilities of so many great industries, how is it that we are still lagging behind? Some years ago—I

think it was in 1915—Mr. J. A. L. Swan, whom I am glad to see in this Council, wrote a report on the industrial development of Bengal and came to the conclusion that the failures in the development of the industries of Bengal were mainly due to insufficient capital and inefficient management. The question of capital is not before the Council just now, and capital is no longer so shy as before; but how can you expect to have efficient leaders of industries if you will not give us the necessary training? Mr. Swan himself has said: "I think that the encouragement from Government might take a more active form than it his hitherto done. One demonstration is more convincing than a dozen monographs." Where can such a demonstration be given, except at a technological institute? Do the member of this Council know what one single school of technology—I mean the Manchester Municipal School of Technology—has done towards the development of the industries of Manchester and Lancashire? I have heard it said that unless there are factories around, it is not possible to have successful technological institutes. I am afraid this is an argument to put the cart before the horse. I will just explain in as few words as I can, what Manchester has done, and this Council can form its own conclusions. Raw materials for the brewery industry are abundant in Lancahsire, and what did the Manchester Technological School do? It established a model brewery inside the institute complete in all details:—I am quoting from the calendar of that institute, 1911-12, page 120. "The experimental brewery contains a complete model working brewery plant of about 4 bushels capacity." It is a miniature brewery showing all the details of a working brewery. If a student goes through this practical work, is it any wonder that he can found a factory and manage it with efficiency wherever he goes? Then again, Sir, we are painfully conscious of the great success of the cotton industry of Lancashire. Here is what the institute has done: "The department of cotton contains a complete plant for all the various departments of spinning and weaving." So also with paper. I am quoting again: "The institute contains a fully equipped paper-making plant." It is no use adding quotations. This great technological institute, established nearly 100 years ago, before there was any Manchester University, has, through its small model plants and factories, materially helped to develop the great industries of Lancashire. Cannot a similar thing be done in Bengal? It cannot be very difficult to establish, gradually, of course, small model plants for the manufacture of essential oils, paper, sugar, glass, etc. The technological institute my thus give a great impetus to several industries in this country. A research laboratory in this connection may greatly help the present industries, which sometimes find it diffcult to get expert advice. Without coming under the control of the Calcutta University, this institute may work in co-operation with the Ghosh and Palit Science College. That will save a great deal of duplication of departments. As regards management, it may safely be left in the hands of men like Sir P. C. Ray, and some of his

expert students like Dr. Hemendra Sen, practical industrialists like the Manager of the Pottery Works, the Founder Manager of the Belgachia Glass Factory, the expert of the Tannery Research Laboratory, and people of this type. It is hardly necessary to go into details.

In theory, the idea of the technological institute has been accepted by Government. As I have said before, a detailed scheme was worked out in 1912. The Calcutta University Commission has accepted the idea. In September 1919, the Secretary of State accepted the fundamental principle of the Indian Industrial Commission, that in future, Government must play an important and active part in the industrial development of the country. Why, only the other day, His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay said in his Convocation address: "I think there are some grounds for the contention that we have devoted ourselves too exclusively to letters and law . . . .I desire to see education given a more practical turn."

After all this, would it be fair to delay the establishment of a technological institute? Much valuable time has already been lost. The matter cannot wait any longer. Let the scheme mature at once, and let there be ample provision for this in the next year's Budget, viz., the Budget for 1922-23.

The question of funds cannot present a very difficult problem after all. During the recent Budget discussions, it was made abundantly clear that a large amount of money had been provided by the Government of India for education, and that the money still remains unspent. This Council has also been able to effect a saving of nearly Rs. 48,00,000 from this year's Budget. Money is no consideration. It is the wish, the determination, that is wanting. Is the Government determined to do good to the people of this province? Ignorance, poverty and cowardice are the three factors that keep a nation down. Is the Government really anxious to remove these factors by providing sufficient facilities for industrial development? Let the Government answer.

Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY: At the very outset I must say that I am convinced that the proposal made by the hon'ble mover will certainly benefit the public and has undoubtedly been put forward with the best of intentions, but before we embark on schemes of technological institutions, it seems highly desirable that we should first of all consider—(1) the present and future needs in technical and industrial education in the province; (2) the present position of education in Bengal, and (3) adopt a broad scheme for the best utilisation of available money for technical and industrial education, and establish some co-ordination between the existing facilities and the future general scheme for the whole province.

Everyone knows that the proportion of Arts and Law graduates in Bengal is higher than that in the United Kingdom, although the population is very nearly the same. It is not my intention to condemn the

fact of there being a large number of graduates, but what I mean is that there should be some reasonable and practical relationship between the sources of employment for such graduates and their number. We all know that one can provide easy wage-earning billets to the scientific artisans, men who have technical education, but we have not sufficient openings for those who possess high diplomas of technological branches. The Rai Bahadur has just made mention of the B.Sc.'s. by hundreds, M.Sc.'s by scores, and D.Sc.'s by dozens who have come out from various universities of Europe and America and who have got very lucrative appointments in various firms. I do not know any of them, but the Rai Bahadur may be able to give the Council facts and figures and tell how many vacancies for such appointments occur every year. It is no use flooding the country with diploma-holders whose minds and brains are full of knowledge and not providing means for their employment to meet the bread question. In this material age, plain living and high thinking are, I am afraid, merely a lofty ideal incapable of realisation which will, certainly, not remove the unrest nor ease the economical distress of the country. I recognise that at present there is a scarcity of educational pathways which lead naturally to an occupation or a profession in life. In fact if we eliminate the meagre facilities we have in this country for medical and engineering training, there is only one natural pathway that is open for earning one's bread, at least so far as Bengal is concerned, and that is the legal profession. We have heard so much of the over-crowding of the Bar in all its stages that it seems almost a waste of time to repeat it and say that the congestion should be removed by throwing open the doors leading to other walks of life. I agree that technological education has undoubtedly the potentiality of relieving this congestion. But education in Bengal is topheavy, not only because it leads, with a very few exceptions, to practically one outlet for the graduates, but very largely because the number receiving elementary and secondary education does not compare favourably with the number receiving university education. Are we going to repeat this vicious circle also with reference to technical and technological education? Let not the distant vision of the technological institutions of Europe and America so enchant us and blur our perspective as not to realise their relative position and utility.

In this country we have nothing analogous to the extramural institutions of the United Kingdom, I mean those guilds which have turned out efficient craftsmen and artisans in every department of technical industry. In the scheme for the development of education, let us aim that our teachers and young men should not be of the type whose brains are full of only theoretical knowledge, but of the type who have really worked with their hands and turned out products of commercial value in industrial undertakings by the sweat of their brow. We do not want the *bhadralok* class who are afraid of developing corns in their hands by honest manual labour. These are not the persons who will turn out the type of

men who will be the bulwark and saviours of our future generations. The matter requires careful and patient consideration.

Now, Sir, a recommendation has been made for the establishment of a technological institution in Calcutta. Will the establishment of one particular type of institution in one particular place necessarily solve the general problem for the whole province of Bengal?

Is it not more important to have technical and vocational educational institutions, spread far and wide into every part of the province, and thereby turn out efficient artisans and craftsmen worthy of successfully taking the place of the European foremen and mechanics and thus forming the backbone of the future industrial development of the country? Is it wise to attempt at once at the very outset to establish a technological institution for conferring the higher diplomas and degrees? If funds were available, I would certainly say, have both. But we must cut our coat according to our cloth. Technical education in all its branches is the one thing that seems needful for our emancipation, for the cure of the unrest of the unemployed, and for the cure for the idle mind which is the devil's workshop.

This matter I submit should be considered very carefully before any definite steps are taken in the way of allotting money for any particular scheme for technological education. Let us consider what are the particular professions in which there are pressing demands for trained men of our own country? What are these demands at present, and what are they likely to be in the near future? We should also consider what are the facilities already in existence in the province and also what are the facilities contemplated by those in charge of this type of education. For instance, we must not forget the great scheme we have of establishing the technical school in Calcutta, in which His Excellency the Earl of Ronaldshay is taking a keen personal interest and for which land is already under acquisition in Corporation Street. Sir I would request the Council to obtain definite answers to some of the questions, before taking a decisive step. It seems desirable that it would be better to ascertain the position definitely and then to formulate a scheme on broad lines. Would it not be better to ask the Director of Industries and his Advisory Board to carefully consider and give their opinion on the general question and to put forward a scheme for general development which will cover the present, and lead up to our future needs? The Advisory Board of Industry is made up of a most happy blend of persons belonging to communities which have a genius for organization and for business acumen and of those who are gifted with imagination, idealism and education. Sir, we find in this Board, men of such great practical and business capacity, as Sir Alexander Murray, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, who, by the way, is also a Fellow of the Calcutta University; and we find the Head of the renowned engineering

firm of Messrs. Burn and Co.—I mean our esteemed colleague on this Council Mr. A. Cochran, we have Rai Bahadur Onkar Mal Jettia, O.B.E., we have the father of commercial and industrial chemistry in this country, the renowned Sir P. C. Roy, and the experienced and erudite master of facts and figures, the Hon'ble Sir Nil Ratan Sircar, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta. Besides these, we have representatives of the Indian Mining Association and others.

I do not think I shall be wrong if I call such a body a sufficiently expert one and qualified to offer opinion on industrial and educational matters.

As regards the financial position, everyone knows that the money is scarce in Bengal. Financial stringency forced the Government of Bengal not to contribute anything to the Indian Science Congress which held its sittings here early in February this year, whereas last year the small Central Provinces made the large contribution of no less than Rs. 10,000. However, different people hold different views and opinions as to the method in which whatever money is available, should be spent, but it seems undesirable to send out on ambitious schemes for the finish of a superstructure without making provision for the laying of its foundation.

The foundation should be strong and the superstructure broad based on it The finish of a superstructure is usually the most expensive part of the job requiring as it does highly specialised skilled labour, and it seems undesirable to absorb all the available money, for some years to come, in the work of embellishment, while the foundation is neglected or is in the process of construction. The lessons which can be learnt from a study of the present situation, in what may be called a general education, ought not to be overlooked. If all the money be spent on technological education, what do we propose to do about vocational schools? What about evening classes for ambitious youths who are serving their time as apprentices in various business undertakings? What about secondary technical schools?

As a member of the Senate of the University of Calcutta, I am aware of the scheme for bringing into existence a department of technology in the Calcutta University and I have every desire of supporting in this Council any scheme for spending money on technological education. But as the money available is not unlimited, the amount which should be spent on technological education should bear a reasonable relation to the amount available for industrial and technical education, which, after all, are only steps which would naturally lead up to it and are necessary for the establishment of the higher technological education. I therefore request the hon'ble mover of the original proposition, and the Council generally to kindly consider whether it will not be a better step, a step productive of a larger outturn, a more remunerative scheme to the country, to refer the problem to the Director of Industries and his

Advisory Board for an early report on the general question and for a definite scheme for consideration, before financial allotments are made for technological institutions. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has said just now that I am recommending the establishment of another committee which will have the fate of most committees—time will be wasted and no results obtained. I never suggested that. What I mean by my amendment is that as various committees have already given their opinions, an expert body like the Advisory Board on Industries should formulate a workable and practical scheme. The Council, after all, is not composed of experts. I hope that the hon'ble member will see his way to refer the question to the Director of Industries to draw up a practical scheme. In the meanwhile we should carry out as expediously as possible the scheme which is really for the establishment of a technical educational institution in Calcutta.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: A large number of committees have sat for the last 50 years to consider and report on the establishment of a technological institute in Bengal, but unfortunately no school has yet been established. We find that in January, 1878, the Government of Bengal appointed a committee to consider and report what measures it was desirable to take for the establishment of a technical school to be connected with the workshops and manufactories of the Public Works Department of the Presidency. Sir Alfred Croft proposed that the civil engineering branch of the Presidency College should be incorporated with the proposed institution, the whole forming one great technical school for the training of engineers and mechanics. Nothing, however, was done. We then find that in 1888 the Government of India issued a resolution for the industrial survey of each province. This was done in Bengal in 1890. The then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Sir Charles Elliott, said, on a review of the report of Mr. Collins, who had been appointed to make the survey, that the advancement of technical education was not a matter which could be pressed regardless of the demand for it or of economy. We find next that in the quinquennial review (1898-1902), Mr. Nathan admitted that the endeavours made to provide through State agency or under State control a system of technical education had met with little success. In 1905, the Association for the Advancement of Scientific and Industrial Education of Indians submitted to the Government of Bengal a proposal to establish a technical college on the lines of the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay. It was suggested that the college should provide for mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, spinning and weaving, sheet metal and enamel work, industrial chemistry, dyeing and paints, ceramics, silk, mining and metallurgy. The result was the opening in 1911 at the Sibpur College of classes in dyeing, and this was closed in 1916. We next find that an influential committee was appointed by Government for the establishment of a technical institute in Calcutta, and their report was published in 1913. I should

mention that there was then also a proposal to abolish the Sibpur Engineering College or rather to remove it to Dacca for the training of about 20 students up to the B.E. standard. Their main recommendations were that a technological institute should be established in Calcutta, that a residential and well-equipped Civil Engineering College should be created independently of this institute, and that a mining school should be formed at some convenient centre, such as Asansol. They advised that the subjects to be taught in the technological institute should include mechanical and electrical engineering, in both higher and lower grades, civil engineering up to and including the overseer grade, textile and commercial subjects, and the chemistry required by engineering and textile students. The committee said that there was a great need for a well-equipped and up-to-date technological institute in Calcutta, and recommended that the institute should comprise the following departments:—

Engineering.—Mechanical, electrical and civil;
Textile fabrics.—Jute and cotton;
Chemistry.—Engineering textile;
Printing;
Commerce;
For women.—Dress-making, millinery and commerce.

They further recommended that the Calcutta Institute should prescribe its own curriculum and hold its own examinations in Civil Engineering as in other subjects.

We find in the note appended by Dr. Denning to the report of the Calcutta Technical Institute, the following short sketch of the technical and commercial education in London:—

(*a*) London University includes as incorporated institutions, University Colleges, King's College, Strand and King's College, Kensington, and as incorporated "Schools of the University," Imperial College of Science and Technology (which in its turn includes Royal College of Science, Royal School of Mines, Central Technical College), Bedford College for Women, Westfield College N. W., East London College, Royal Holloway College, London School of Economics, Wye Agricultural College, London Day Training College, Five Theological Colleges, Ten medical colleges and some 16 other institutions, of which eight are London Polytechnics. At all of these, higher professional instruction is given.

(*b*) In addition to assisting the University and many of its constituent institutions and schools, the London County Council aids ten semi-independent polytechnics, the Goldsmiths' College, a number of Arts Schools, and several other institutions. The students on the rolls of these institutions number over 35,000 and the annual cost to the London

County Council is about £110,000. The Council maintains 17 institutions, including the Central and Camberwell Schools of Arts and Crafts, Paddington Technical Institute, Hackney Institute, School of Building, Brixton, Shorditch Technical Institute, School of Lithography, etc. These deal with nearly 12,000 students, cost £81,000, to none of which the Board of Education pays a fairly large amount. The total Board of Education grant is £52,000; also the Council runs 274 evening schools with a roll of 126,000 pupils.

(c) Independent of London County Council aid, there are numerous institutions ranging from the City and Guilds Finsbury Technical College, the Trades Training School, Leather Trades' School, South London Technical Arts Schools, Pitman's Clerks' Colleges, etc., and a large number of small private commercial schools.

When the question of the abolition of the Sibpur Engineering College was mooted by Government in 1913, I moved a resolution in this Council that the proposal to abolish the Engineering College at Sibpur be dropped and that the said College be either retained at Sibpur, or if its present site was considered unsuitable, it be removed to a suitable site in Calcutta or its immediate vicinity, or be made a branch of the proposed technological institute in Calcutta. As a result of my moving that resolution, the Sibpur Engineering College has been retained and has been, under its energetic Principal, Mr. Heaton, considerably improved, and has now many of the branches of a technological college attached to it. We have, at present, the Electric and Mining Engineering classes But it is necessary that there should be an independent polytechnic institute for teaching up-to-date standards of a European and American Institute.

In these days when the Arts colleges have flooded the country, when there is no suitable career open to our young boys on account of want of suitable and proper training, it is only meet and proper that Government should take early steps to give the country benefits of technical education, and that of a high standard. Government have spent a large sum of money on an industrial survey of India with a view to the industrial development of the country. There cannot be any industrial development unless we have properly trained men in the country, and there cannot be any salvation for India unless there is industrial development. You cannot hope to do it simply by foreign labour. There must be sufficient men in the country to carry out the great work of national regeneration. We are surprised and sorry to see that 50 years of labour is going to give birth to an apology for a technical institute, which to all intents and purposes would be of very little advantage to the *bonâ fide* children of the soil.

Motion for adjournment: The Police Force.

The PRESIDENT: As it is now 5 o'clock, we may take up the uestion of the adjournment of the Council; and I now call upon fr. Rhodes to move the motion that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. C. W. RHODES: In view of the permission so kindly given me y the Council I do not think I require to justify my action in moving he adjournment of the House.

The answers given by Sir Henry Wheeler to Mr. Das this afternoon aise matters of very great urgency and importance, especially in egard to that supplementary question where he indicated the possiility of having to cut down the police force. I have read carefully hrough the account of the debate on the 17th when the police grant vas reduced by Rs. 23,00,000. So far as I can see not one of the peakers suggested an immediate reduction in the numbers of the police orce without adequate enquiry. The whole tone of that debate showed reluctance to make an increased grant for police expenditure until he Council had satisfied itself that economies could be effected without he sacrifice of efficiency. I think it was the intention of the House n that occasion to vote sufficient money for the Government to carry n for the present and to vote a subsidiary grant as soon as the Council was satisfied that the increased expenditure was justified. It is quite lear from Sir Henry Wheeler's answer this afternoon, however, that he Council committed an error of judgment and that the Government cannot act on the lines which I think the House intended and which are suggested by Mr. Das in his supplementary question. It is unfortunate that this was not realised or explained to the Council at the time.

I am sorry to see that Mr. Montagu has been bombarded with questions on the subject in the Imperial Parliament. It may have been done with the best intentions, but I think this Council would prefer to work out its own salvation and may yet have to pray to be saved from its friends. We are faced with a huge deficit through no fault of our own, and in this respect we are confronted with difficulties unlike those of the other provinces. If the Council has exercised more zeal than discretion in cutting down expenditure, I think there is some excuse. There is not the slightest wish on the part of the Council to embarrass the Government or to bring about a deadlock. The persistent cry throughout the Budget debate has been for more information, and in this respect I would bear testimony, as others have done, to the readiness with which that information has been supplied. But in the limited time at our disposal we have had to vote large sums in the dark, and during the debates constant reference has been made to the need for the new standing committees which have been elected to-day There is no doubt that the Council looks to these standing committees

to protect the interests of the tax-payer and to give the Council confidence in voting away large sums of money during the Budget debates. We owe our thanks to His Excellency for the speed with which these committees have been called into existence, and I think the Council will recognise in that fact the obvious desire of His Excellency to hasten on full parliamentary government in Bengal. We have been told by the Government that under the Reform Scheme these committees have no statutory powers. We recognise this fact, but we also realise the important functions which these committees will perform. They will keep us informed both in the House and in the lobbies about the details of administration, and it is obvious that the opinion of the Council will largely be guided by what our own representatives on these committees have to tell us. But we look to these committees not only to keep us informed of the problems of the Government, but also to keep Government itself informed as to the state of feeling in this House. I hope Members and Ministers will not look askance at these committees. I can assure the Government that they are going to get more constructive assistance than destructive criticism from these new committees. Such deadlocks as the present are therefore unlikely in the future.

In regard to the necessity for an efficient police force, I think the Council has made up its mind. We have had recent evidence of the necessity for an efficient force in the out-districts, and, nearer home it has been dangerous during the past week for passengers to enter or leave Howrah station by train. I am told that our available police force has been strained to its limit protecting railway passengers. It is quite obvious, therefore, that the Council does not desire any reduction in the efficiency of the police force, rather the reverse. A reduction of Rs. 23,00,000, I may say, is equal to the salaries of 10,000 constables, and I believe that the total number of constables in Bengal, including Calcutta, is under 19,000. The matter is one of urgency, and my object in moving the adjournment is to press upon the Government the importance of asking the Council for a supplementary vote in the shortest possible time after the appointment of the standing committee. If the debate shows that my request is supported by my fellow-councillors, I sincerely trust the Government will take immediate steps to give effect to our wishes. I think we shall be prepared to pass this grant not only because the standing committee asks us to do so, but perhaps chiefly in the knowledge that this same standing committee will be watching the tax-payers' interest throughout the coming year, and, even though the full amount may be voted, the committee will still be there to suggest any economies that may be found possible without loss of efficiency.

In conclusion, may I submit to the House that we are not to-day discussing the efficiency of the police force. I know various views are held on the subject, but, whether we say that the whole force is good

or that it is wholly bad, we are all unanimous in our desire that it should become the best possible force at the lowest possible cost. It is our first duty, as a Council, to assist in the maintenance of order in the province, and our equally important duty to work eventually towards a reduction in the cost of the police by co-operating to remove all factors in our social and economic life that tend to unrest and disorder.

The PRESIDENT: I wish to point out to the members that 2 hours is the limit of time for the discussion of this question, and the whole discussion has to be finished within that time.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: May I ask what the resolution is?

The PRESIDENT: There is no resolution; the only motion before the Council is that "the House do now adjourn."

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I am very sorry that my esteemed friend, Mr. Rhodes, has thought it proper to bring forward this discussion this afternoon in the Council. I may state, and I repeat what I stated on a previous occasion when this item of Rs. 23,00,000 was disallowed by the majority of the members of this Council, that if there was a recommendation by the members of the Standing Committee of Police that these items of expenditure were necessary and if the Member in charge of the Police Department were to come with a supplementary budget, we, the members of this Council, would be only too glad to pass it That is what we distinctly said. Nothing has happened since then why our assurance given then should not be believed by Government. It is not our wish to embarrass Government or to bring about a deadlock in the administration of the country. We shall be only too glad to help Government to carry on the administration smoothly and properly, but at the same time Government ought to put some confidence upon the assurance given by the members of this Council. Under these circumstances, I would ask Mr. Rhodes to put a stop to the discussion and not to press the motion any further.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: The question of the reduction of the grant for an increased expenditure in police this year cannot be reopened under the law. You are trying to go in a roundabout way, but I am afraid the law will not allow you to do that. Section 80 is positive on this question. What is now proposed is to override section 80 by some stratagem or other. I told this Council that the Government might be assured that we were in no way inclined to put any difficulty in its way. By rejecting 165 amendments which, if carried, would have made Government impossible, we have proved our good faith. We do not desire in the least to embarrass the Government. The fact is that we were not satisfied that the increase of Rs. 23½ lakhs—an amount which took our breath away—was indispensable this

year. We must be satisfied that the expenditure is indispen able in the interests of good government, order and peace; and, unle you can show that it is so, we are not inclined to pass it. Mr. Rhod himself has just mentioned that we are faced with a huge deficit Rs. 2½ crores. It is our bounden duty to try to economise to the utmo and to scrutinise every item of expenditure. I can quite understa that some additional amount would be necessary for the efficiency of t police, because of the higher pay which the policemen would dema by strikes and other ways. Let the Government satisfy us that t policemen require higher pay. I can say that there is not a single m in this Council who would oppose the Government. But you tell nothing, and you only say, "Give us Rs. 23½ lakhs." Why have y given us responsible government; why have you brought us here a why have you called us representatives of the people, if we cann scrutinise the finances of the country? Our occupation would be go and our places here should be vacated, if we cannot do so. I gave assurance, and am giving the assurance again—I am not a leader in t Council, but I am only a humble person—that so far as I know m of the members, if not all, would vote for the Government, if the G ernment say that this amount of money was required for increased p or such other indispensable items; and for that matter, I gave t assurance, "Satisfy the Committee and, if you find that the Committ is not satisfied, that the Committee is unreasonable and unreasona discards or rejects the items which you think are indispensable, bu it to the House and appoint a Committee of the House—a larger Co mittee." And I can assure you that the members of this Council a not at all unreasonable. A few may be irreconcilable and unreasonabl who oppose for opposition sake, but there are many here who do n oppose for opposition sake, but oppose for conscience sake. Satis them, and they will vote for you. If the Committee are unreasonabl come before us, and lay your case before the Council. Who is there this Council who will not pass it? There is no such man here. Ther fore, I say that the way in which Mr. Rhodes has brought this que tion is not the proper way. What ought to be done is this. With the next week, let the Government show before the Police Committe that they require this increased expenditure for such and such item and, if they are not satisfied, let them bring it before this Counc We should also know for what specific purposes the amount is require and, if that Committee are unreasonable and reject the Governme proposals, be sure that we shall set them aside, when we are satisfi that the amount is indispensably required. We have been called he to take some part in the administration of our country, and we do n want to be led like dumb-driven cattle. We want to exercise o discretion, our own judgment. Be assured that we are not opposed Government, but, on the contrary, we shall help them to the best our power when we are satisfied that the amount is required in t

interest of Government. I understand that there are certain people who think that the interest of Government is not the interest of the people, but I am one of those who considers that the interest of the British Government is the interest of the people. Whenever the interest of the British Government clashes with the interest of the people, I say the rulers are wrong. I, for my part, do not wish to see any clashing of interest of the British Government with that of the people of British India. Therefore, I say, take us into your confidence, and we shall certainly be with you and will never be against you.

Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur has spoken from the point of view of an ordinary person and I desire to do the same. The reduction was asked for by a resolution consisting of one line—that the grant be reduced by a certain amount. It is impossible for an ordinary man to understand as to why there should be such reduction. Should there be a reduction simply because there has been an excess of the demand over last year's? Various circumstances may happen—the police force may require to be strengthened, new thanas may have to be opened. We do not know. The details to some extent are set out in the Budget, but not in such detail as the Council would have desired. But still the reduction was sought to be made in that off-hand manner. The Council should not have been kept in the dark. All those who wanted a reduction ought to have indicated under what heads they wanted to effect a reduction, and the Council may reasonably require some information on that point. The Council is entrusted, from the point of view of an ordinary man, to some extent with the preservation of public peace. For instance, if the executive Government are to reduce the grant for the police force in Rajshahi, there is every likelihood of more escapes of prisoners from the jail there. If the grant for the police force employed in Calcutta—in Burra Bazar, Clive Street and other business localities—be reduced, there may be opportunities for more dacoities like the recent Chartered Bank dacoity. If it is intended to reduce the traffic police in Calcutta, then we shall have to be detained for half an hour instead of for 10 to 15 minutes in some streets of Calcutta. So a reduction under these heads is not practicable. The new year commences to-day. The grant has been reduced, and if the executive Government now give effect to the reduction, what will happen? If they keep the police force at the strength at which it is contemplated to keep it, then they will have to pay the extra cost out of their own pocket, unless there is the veto. We have been told by some of the members who have already spoken that the whole thing will be placed before the Standing Committee that is going to be appointed in connection with the Police Department, as if the Police Committee carries an Aladin's lamp in their pocket, and that within three days they will be able to understand the whole question. It is a Budget of a little over a crore and a half, and to ordinary men who have to deal with figures one would think it should take months

and probably years before they fully realise and understand how the reduction should be made.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: It is to be regretted that it has been thought necessary by Mr. Rhodes to bring this subject before the Council for discussion. In fact there was absolutely no necessity for this discussion. I maintain that, on the materials which the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler supplied to us when presenting the Budget, we were fully justified in thinking that the police expenditure required a drastic reduction. Most of us were new to the Council, and so it was not quite possible for us to point out definite items wherein we wanted reductions, and so we decided on a lump reduction, leaving it to the Hon'ble Member to adjust his expenses according to the grant. But most of us made it clear on that day that we were prepared to reconsider the grant if either the Government or the Police Standing Committee put further information before us or recommended any further expenses. We stick to the same position to-day, as will be apparent from the speeches made by Babu Surendra Nath Ray and Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur I still maintain that there was absolutely no necessity for this discussion, and we are always prepared to consider any responsible proposal brought before us in a responsible manner by any responsible officer of the Government. We are not here to make the administration impossible, only what we want is more light and a little courtesy and we are always ready to help the Government. We have come here to co-operate with the Government; if non-co-operation was our ideal we could have remained outside.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I must confess that I generally agree with my esteemed friend, Mr Rhodes, for whose opinions I had all along a very high respect. He is just opposite to me—in a word he knows more than he says and I am just the opposite. Well that does not matter much either way. But I think I can say on behalf of everybody here that we have not come here to create a deadlock. If there is any lurking suspicion in that behalf in the mind of anybody, however eminent he may be, I shall ask him to dispel that straightway from his mind. We are here as ordinary business men. We know that money is required for the expenses of the police as for our own everyday expenses in life. But there was a reason why we opposed these demands, and to my mind the principal reason was that there is a sense of want of trust that was displayed by some of the Hon'ble Members of the Government in regard to the proposed standing committees and this, taken together with the fact that the demands appear to us to be too high, particularly in a year when there was so serious a deficit and a deficit which has been threatening to be chronic and permanent, we thought it was our duty to oppose the grant. I do not agree with my hon'ble friend Mr. J. N. Basu, who thinks that we did it in an off-hand fashion. If that be his opinion, it is purely personal with him—that is not my opinion; and I do not think that that is the opinion of the other

gentlemen who voted with me in this matter. Then, there is another thing that I have also got to say in this connection, that is, that if the Council gets an opportunity, if the Committee that is going to be formed gets an opportunity of considering this matter, then I have every reason to hope that the Committee will find their way to recommend, if it is explained to them how it is that we cannot do without this money. I respectfully submit that, so far as I am concerned, I have no doubt that we can place that much reliance upon our own standing committees that are going to be formed, but, if confidence is not reposed on us, if we are treated as outer barbarians who must not be permitted to know the reason of things, who must not question the reason why, who must pay because they are asked, if that is the spirit in which things are done, then I am perfectly sure there will be very little co-operation. The days of old traditions are bound to go. I do not, as I have already said, want to create any embarrassment. I have come here because I am a Moderate, not because I am something otherwise. If that were not so, I would not have come here at all. But a Moderate does not mean a sycophant, nor does moderation mean flunkeyism. We have not left our conscience behind. My own judgment I am not going to place at anybody's disposal, however high he may be. I am here to consider the matter that is placed before me and to act according to the best of my lights. Therefore, if these things are brought before us—I mean the members of the Committee—and it is explained to their satisfaction why we want Rs. 23,00,000 there is no reason why the same should not be granted. Supposing it was explained to us, "we have got so many lakhs and require Rs. 23,00,000 more. The whole amount has got to be divided by 12, but the Accountant-General cannot do it unless you say whence this Rs. 23,00,000 is to be taken out," then we can very well realise the position. You simply say, "we demand Rs. 23,00,000 more," and we say, "we do not understand that." As such I respectfully submit that my view is, and I think it is the view of all those gentlemen who voted with me, that we were perfectly justified in what we did. All the same I yield to none in my desire that any deadlock that is possible must not be allowed to take place. If His Excellency the Governor be graciously of opinion that things should be done in such a way that you can tide over difficulties and go on with the work, we all bow to his decision, whatever it may be. That is the point of view from which I have to urge. I have no reason to doubt that. Myself and all my brother members will only be too glad to accept the situation that has been so eloquently moved by my esteemed friend over there.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I do not think that there is any necessity of associating my views with that of the gentlemen who have spoken before me. I am of opinion that in spite of the position we created for ourselves by the refusal of the grant it is meet and proper that we should reconsider our position, provided there are fresh materials.

I am sorry that I don't see eye to eye with some of my friends regard ing the utility of these so-called standing committees, which the othe day the Hon'ble the Member in charge styled as simply advisory com mittees. The information that the committees may be pleased to giv us might be of some use to the members of this Council, and the Counc as a body should be supplied with all the facts which are in possessio of the Government and which we shall be perfectly at liberty to discu and upon which we may frame our judgment. If we are satisfie certainly I think we should reconsider our decision, and should n hesitate a moment to make the grant necessary for the purpose of run ning the administration.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: If I have been able to read aright the meaning of the vote of reduction that was passed the other day, think it was done on two grounds. First, as a censure on the manne in which the Department was carried on, and, secondly, as a prote against the extraordinary increase of expenditure that was being incu red from year to year. With this view in mind, I cannot congratulat Mr. Rhodes on the question that he has raised before this House to-day His question practically amounts to this. He comes and asks th House to go back on the vote that was passed by the majority of th House only a few days ago. To rescind or to consider the question o rescinding a vote like this in the same sessions takes away the importan of this Council. It has been said by many members that a standin committee is being formed for this Police Department. A question lik this should have come from that standing committee and not to-da from Mr. Rhodes. As regards the standing committees, I must dissoci ate myself from the view that has just been expressed by my friend Babu Surendra Nath Ray. He said that if the Standing Committe recommended that this expense was necessary, this Council would pas it. I cannot agree to that view. We ourselves must be satisfied tha every item, every detail of the items is absolutely necessary, not t create a deadlock. Then and then only, we may reconsider the matter The Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler said that the standing committee would be simply advisory boards. I think that it is the sense of th Council that the four members whom we have the pleasure to elec to-day cannot always and in all matters, represent the opinion of thi House. Before I finish, I should like to add another word, the day of carrying on a high and mighty tone in this Council are gone. The angle of vision has changed. I say that this House, or any other House, cannot submit to such terms as have been used during the Budget discussions. If the Standing Committee on behalf of ourselves or on behalf of the Government come forward and say that the Govern ment is in a difficult position and that the Police Department cannot be carried on well for want of sufficient funds, then, after satisfying itself that every particular item is absolutely necessary, this Council may reconsider this matter and not otherwise.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I do not quite understand why this motion has been brought before this House by my friend Mr. Rhodes. This item of Rs. 23,00,000, so far as I remember, represents the additional amount that was proposed to be spent over and above the expenditure last year—I mean the year ending on 31st March 1921. It was not a reduction without rhyme or reason with a view to create a deadlock in the management of the Police Department. If the management could be done in the year 1920-21 on a certain scale, that can as well as be done now. If additional amount is necessary, it must be under certain heads and it must be shown that it is impossible to go on without incurring the expenditure at once—I mean on the 1st of April. It is an ominous day. The 1st of April has some other associations with us. I do not know what we are going to do and what Mr. Rhodes is striving to take us to. If his intention is that we are to reconsider the whole thing because the information supplied to us then was not complete and upon incomplete information we did something wrong and that we must now correct our mistake and say that we should not have cut down that amount, but we must go on with the additional expenditure as proposed, I submit, Sir that would be a position——

The PRESIDENT: I must call the hon'ble member's attention to the point at issue. There seems to be some misapprehension as to the effect of the motion. If this motion is carried, it would not have the effect of restoring the grant that has been refused. It would only have the effect of drawing the attention of the Council to the serious situation that has been created by the curtailment of the demand as shown by the statement made, by the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler and asking Government to take such measures as can legally be taken to meet the difficulty Government may in another session come to the Council and ask for a supplementary grant. It is not now intended to reverse the decision of the Council; that decision cannot be reversed in this session.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I thank you, Sir, for the kind explanation. If that is the position, I am now showing that really we have not created a deadlock and immediate action is not necessary. We were not told then and we are not told even by Mr. Rhodes to-day, that an additional force of say some 10,000 constables is to be appointed at once and that if that is not done to-day, or that if to some already appointed payment is to be made, then it is a difficult situation and something ought to be done. We distinctly stated on that day that the money was not going to be appropriated for some other purpose. The money would be there. If it is necessary, if the Council is convinced that an additional sum is necessary, it would be granted. There would be no difficulty. I am sorry that the responsible advisers of His Excellency could not supply that information to His Excellency and request him to place some confidence in us. We knew then that we might be overruled, but still we did it simply because we thought it necessary, as

there was a heavy deficit and we were going to encroach upon earmarked grants for special purposes of education and sanitation, and, if it can be delayed, if anyhow the expenditure can be lessened, that ought to be tried and in that view we suggested, "we grant you so much, the amount which you required for the year 1920-21. The sum over and above that if you can show as absolutely necessary, we would be very glad to grant it," but that was not accepted. There was room given for bringing forward a supplementary budget; that was not done, but simply a censure in a roundabout way, either directly or indirecily, is now being attempted to be passed upon this Council—that upon incomplete information, without taking into consideration the serious difficulties that would ensue, the demand was curtailed. We protest against that. I request Mr. Rhodes not to press the point, and ask His Excellency through his responsible advisers—Ministers and Executive Councillors—here to place some confidence upon us and to give us some reasonable data upon which we can act. It is not a thing on which as my friend Mr. Basu thinks the Standing Committee cannot in a day or two come to any conclusion. I am not relying entirely upon the Standing Committee. I do not say that the Standing Committee would be the arbiter of this affair. But the Standing Committee is composed of persons elected by us. Their existence is between the Council and the Government. They would be in a position to say what additional sum would be necessary. This can certainly be done in one or two days Where is the special necessity of the motion? Take for instance the increment of pay. There is some proposal for granting increment of pay. That can be granted later on, and, when the grant would be made it can be made with retrospective effect. In that way the charge can be met. I do not see how it is an impossibility to carry on the police administration without the grant, and why the thing should be corrected without a moment's delay. In that view I say: "Here is a standing committee consisting of our elected members. We have some confidence in them. Let them be satisfied." If they are not amenable to reason, and are not friendly to the Government, the matter may be explained to the Council. An additional or supplementary budget may be brought forward at any moment. We do not say it should be six months hence; if necessary, it can be done at any moment, because there is ample room for it. We distinctly stated then that we were not convinced of the special necessity. If we are convinced, we will be very glad to grant any amount they require. As my friend Mr. Mullick has said, we are not for non-co-operation. We are for co-operating with the Government. If we are shown that for maintaining the efficiency and usefulness of the Police Department any additional sum is necessary, we will be very glad to grant it. We distinctly stated it then and for the information of His Excellency, through you, Sir, I reiterate the statement even now. I believe all the members will agree with me in saying this that it was not with the spirit of non-co-operation

that we did it. We did it simply upon a public ground, upon a necessity which we are bound to look to first. We are not to encourage any unnecessary expenditure. A sum—a heavy sum of Rs. 23,00,000 or Rs. 24,00,000 was asked over and above the sum spent last year, and to that we objected. If we are satisfied, if we are shown that here are the things for which so much is required, if that can be explained, there would be no difficulty in getting the consent of the House. In that view I request my friend not to press the point. My friend Mr. Basu remarked that perhaps, if the grant is not given, then further convicts would escape from the Rajshahi Jail or further *goondaism* would be encouraged in Burra Bazar. I do not think that the members had any such idea in their mind or that they were privy to any arrangement which could bring in such a result. I have no such misgiving upon the honesty and integrity of the members. I hope my friend, Mr. Rhodes, would not press the point, and what we say now may be communicated to His Excellency, and I hope His Excellency would have some faith upon our honesty and he would wait. If he can overrule us to-day, he can overrule us a few days hence. There is no urgent necessity why he should do it immediately. I think there is no hurry about it, and my friend would not, I hope, press the point any more.

Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: I rise to offer a personal explanation. I did not impute any dishonesty to any member of this Council. There are different ways of understanding things. I understood it in one way and my friend understood it in a different way.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: Before I speak on this subject I beg to submit that I was not present in the Council when this was discussed, so that there might not be any misapprehension on the part of my friend, Babu Surendra Nath Mullick.

The first speaker, Babu Surendra Nath Ray (he is not here now), informed us as he gave an assurance to the Members of Government, that the matter would be reconsidered by the Council, the Government should have relied on that assurance. But I do not think there is any member in this Council who can, on behalf of the non-official members, give such an assurance and ask Government to accept it. If there be any member who can do so, I hope the Government would be glad to accept it.

The next speaker, Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, went into the question of law and said Government cannot reconsider the matter, but I beg to submit, in the first place, there is no question of reconsideration, and in the second place, there is another law which has been resorted to by His Excellency the Governor of Madras. I saw in the papers that the Governor of Madras expressed his regret for having to overrule the vote of the Council. Now His Excellency the Governor of Bengal may follow the example of His Excellency the Governor of Madras and say "I regret I am to veto the decision of the Council." I think that instead of allowing things to come to such a pass we should mend our

vays and do things properly and reasonably. When the demand was cut lown not a single suggestion was made as to how this reduction should be carried out. Two suggestions I read in the papers had been nade—one by the learned mover suggesting that honorary Inspectors nay be appointed. Inspectors have to enquire into dacoity and murder esses and are to be whole-time servants; they are also to prosecute cases ike trained lawyers. Are we to understand that these honorary Inspectors will able able to render whole-time and responsible service to Government? At times information comes to a thana at one in the morning that a murder had taken place; the Inspector has got to go and make an investigation, but I don't think anyone will come forward to take such an honorary post. Moreover, if that is to be done, I think the mover of the resolution will have to request his friends in the Legislative Assembly to omit Chapter IX of the Indian Penal Code which deals with the offences of taking and giving bribes to public sevants. If we have to appoint honorary Inspectors, we must make sure that that chapter of the Penal Code is deleted from that book. We have also read in paper some suggestions about reducing the pay of the European Superintendents of Police. Police Superintendents are not like compositors and printers who can be asked to go away any time. Inspectors, Europeans and Indians, Superintendents, whether European or Indian, have entered the service under certain conditions and Government cannot dispense with their services, and if that is done, they are entitled to compensation. Under the rules Government is bound to give them compensation when their services are dispensed with wthout any reasonable ground. Babu Surendra Nath Mullick, notwithstanding his great legal abilities, has indirectly made an admission that they made this reduction in the demand not only on the ground of the heavy deficit in the Budget, but also on the ground that there were some observations made by a certain member of Government which they did not at all like.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I did not say so. I do not think the speaker cared to follow me.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: Yes, my friend did say so during his speech and there are others, who heard him saying so. Besides these two suggestions there have been absolutely no suggestions either in this Council or outside it as to how this reduction is to be carried out, and without any such it would not be wise on the part of this Council to reduce the grant. I ask my friend, Babu Surendra Nath Mullick, if any Commissioner of the Calcutta Corporation wants to cut down a certain amount (say Rs. 5,00,000) from the current budget of the Corporation from a certain specific head, would he not ask him from what subheads that Commissioner wants to delete the amount. This is the most common-sense view that any reasonable man who has got any idea of administration would take. If we do something simply because a certain gentleman made certain observations which we did not like we

would not be doing the right thing. If you want to help Government, help them without any prejudice and without any feeling.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: We came to the conclusion the other day upon some materials which were before the House in regard to the police budget. Every item of the budget was examined and we came to the deliberate conclusion that the amount of Rs. 23,00,000 should be deleted as being unnecessary and extravagant. To-day we are virtually asked to reconsider our decision, and upon what materials? If upon the same materials, we need not go into the subject again; if upon fresh materials, then that is a different matter. In no way can it be argued that we, the members of this responsible body, have treated the subject lightly. On the contrary, we have thought over the matter and, after considering the claims of economy in the expenditure on this subject, we, the non-official members of the Council, came to the unanimous conclusion that this amount represented a very large sum and was consequently disallowed. Is there any gentleman in this House who would come forward and say that we have not acted rightly or without any sense of responsibility? If he says so, I would say to him deliberately, unequivocally and unhesitatingly that he is perfectly wrong. No body of public men ever thought over a matter so deliberately as we have done. Our mission in this House is to co-operate with the Government and to help the Government with advice in matters of difficulty; and we are prepared to discuss this question again if new light is thrown on it, but in the absence of such a factor I do not know what useful purpose is served by this fresh question. I am not raising a question of law, because I am submitting that it is my avowed object to assist the Government as much as possible and to wipe off the deficit—huge deficit as it has been rightly called. We are appointing committees to see if retrenchment can be effected in Government expenditure and I am of opinion that inasmuch as the new Standing Committee on Police has been elected to-day, let us not take up this question again, but wait for their recommendations which will, I have no doubt, be of great assistance to us as well to Government.

Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: This Council is not a platform for displaying cheap sentiment, or for earning cheap popularity or for indulging in cheap oratory. To-day we are discussing a question of considerable constitutional importance, and it is up to us to consider it with all caution and deliberation, to feel that we are here as responsible members elected by the public to serve the interests of the public.

Mr. Rhodes does not carry us very far in his motion for the adjournment of the House. His adjournment barely amounts to nothing more than an expression of opinion on our part that perhaps we have done our work in pointing out to Government that the increased expenditure on the police is not agreeable to us; we have done our work in eliciting information from Government as to the reasons that have led them to

subscribe to this increased expenditure. I would go further even than Mr. Rhodes in my appreciation of the gravity of the crisis with which we are confronted and at a very grave risk, I appeal to those members of the Council who think—and I know there are some who think the same as I do—that if they have done a wrong they must come forward and redress that wrong. It is not beneath our dignity, as it is not beneath the dignity of an honourable gentleman, to come forward and acknowledge mistakes once committed. I think we shall rise in our own estimation and in that of others if we are strong enough to come forward and declare publicly that at one time or another we did not know sufficiently when we voted in a particular manner. At this stage of our political existence we are far too young in western politics to identify ourselves with any party, to subscribe to any irresponsible programme, and this is just the time when we can act according to our conscience, and I feel that if we do act according to our conscience, we shall have the approbation of the public and the satisfaction of having done our duty.

At this stage the Council adjourned for 15 minutes

After the adjournment.

Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: I am afraid some members of this Council are labouring under a misapprehension. So far as I could understand, Mr. Rhodes did not desire us to-day to reconsider our position All what he really asked us was that we should keep an open mind; nothing more than that. There is no question that the Budget was not understood by a very large number of members. I, for one, could not follow the Budget in every detail and I am sure there were others in my position, and I think I am right in stating this because some of the members who spoke during that discussion, said that they were willing to make a supplementary grant if a proper case were made out. It seems to me that these members were not quite certain that they were acting rightly in reducing the grant. What is proposed is this. We have to-day elected the Standing Committees in connection with the various departments. The members of the Standing Committees are elected by non-official members of this Council and it is presumed that they will support the popular views. The members of the Standing Committee for the Police, will make themselves perfectly familiar with the figures, and in a very short time will be able to tell us whether we have acted rightly or wrongly in reference to this grant. It is not that we are bound by the opinions of the members of the Committee, but they will be in a position to explain the whole matter to us and if we are satisfied that that money is really necessary, then the only thing is to grant the money. That is the position so far as I understand it What we are required to do is to see whether we have acted rightly or wrongly when we have got materials before us. We have only to keep an open mind till we receive the opinion of the Standing Committee and then act upon it. We are not bound to agree,

as I have said. with the wishes of the Standing Committee. If the Standing Committee can make out no case why the money should be given, we need not accept the opinion of the Standing Committee. I think the motion of Mr. Rhodes is very appropriate and opportune.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: I am afraid I cannot see eye to eye with Mr. Rhodes and to my mind the motion before the House is premature. We know that a Standing Committee is going to be formed for all the departments of Government, and a similar committee is to be formed for the Police Department as well. When reduction was made we had before our minds the fact that this Standing Committee will be able to go into all the details of the Police Department and enlighten us as to what curtailments should be made. It is not unlikely that this committee may say that there is absolutely no room for any curtailment. But it is equally likely that this committee may say that expenditure has gone up so very rapidly that it is absolutely necessary and safe that a curtailment, not of Rs. 23,00,000, but of Rs. 50,00,000, should be made; so in every view it will be our duty to look into the matter very minutely and then decide as to what we should do.

As has been observed by Mr. A. C. Dutt just now, we, as reasonable men, have to do what is right and, to my mind, this Council will do nothing but what is right. When the question of this reduction came up before the Council, it was certainly the view of the members of this Council, and I think this is also the view of the country, that expenditure in this department of Government has gone up by leaps and bounds and that there is sufficient room for curtailment. There are many who think, for instance, that the Intelligence Branch of the Police, which sprang up with great rapidity some years ago, has possibly been kept up at abnormal strength; that there is no need for it at the present moment; that the expenditure on buildings is much more than what is necessary, and that the expenses on the higher posts should be, to a great extent, curtailed. These are matters for the Standing Committee to go into and to place their views before the Council. When this is done, this Council will consider every matter that is before it. I do not agree with some of the previous speakers who have said that this reduction was made in an irresponsible way It was nothing of the sort. When we took up the question we thought it was our duty to do so. My friend, Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, has said that it might be within the mind of certain persons here to seek cheap popularity; that is not true, but I would have wished him to add that we are not here to bask in the sunshine of official favour We are here to do our duty to our country.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: This debate which has been initiated by Mr. Rhodes has touched upon a matter of great importance, and upon a vote of this Council which undoubtedly might

create a position of considerable difficulty. I think, therefore, that nobody here has any reasonable ground of criticism against the member for having brought this matter prominently to the fore; and his object in doing so, in his own words, is "to press upon the Government the importance of asking the Council for a supplementary vote in the shortest possible time after the appointment of the Standing Committee." That object has been secured in so far as an opportunity has been afforded to the members of this Council of expressing their opinion, freely and frankly, upon the issue which he has raised, and to that extent, since there is no definite proposition upon which, on the merits, this Council will take a vote, I might be content to leave the matter there, with an assurance to the Council that the remarks that have been made this evening will be brought to the attention of the Governor and will undoubtedly be duly considered by him. But on one point I think, in fairness to myself, and in fairness to my colleagues, both Members and Ministers, it is only right that I should say a few words.

We have been told to-night that for whatever has happened we have largely ourselves to thank, because we told the Council nothing, and we have been adjured to credit the members of this Council with honesty and good faith, and a desire to help the Government. That adjuration is really unnecessary, as all of us are prepared to credit the Council with the possession of these qualities, but in all fairness to ourselves may I ask this Council, equally, to credit the Members of this Government with honesty and good intention, and to disabuse their minds of this figment of "official superiority" and "bureaucratic aloofness," which figured somewhat prominently in a recent document which must have been seen by many of the members here present, over the signatures of some of their number. I would like the Council to believe that we, too, are equally instigated by these motives of good faith which the members of the Council claim for themselves.

In the matter of the allegation that we have told the Council nothing, might I recall to the mind of the Council a few facts in connection with the Budget. The whole Budget discussion was initiated on the basis of a somewhat portentous grey-covered book, which figured so conspicuously in this Chamber a few days ago. In that book the Finance Department endeavoured to give the more salient facts. I have not the slightest doubt that many of the members of this Council, perfectly genuinely, found it difficult to follow those figures. Before my connection with the Finance Department, I myself did not always find it easy to understand similar details, but the intention of Government in compiling that book and placing it in the hands of the Council was to give all the information in their power. Apart from that, we have, in the course of the Budget discussion, made various speeches in connection with the various points raised,

and may I in our justification plead that for my part, and I think that of all of us, we have tried to keep our speeches to the particular issue that was raised, and after any criticisms, to the best of our ability, have been answered, to be content to sit down and to make room for other members. It is perfectly true that I might have talked for hours on the subject of the police, though I imagine the Council would have been conspicuously bored, and we have endeavoured to be as concise as possible.

Well, what actually happened in this debate? As the Council may remember, I spoke for nearly an hour, till a quarter past seven, in connection with the general discussion, and if the Governor had not extended the time allotted, Mr Kerr, who had every right to be heard on that occasion, would have had to remain silent. The Council will also recall that Mr. Kerr offered, on behalf of himself and us to help members who had any doubts, if they would only come to our rooms and ask us about them; he assured members that we would then give them all the information in our power. Various members have thus been to me, and I have supplied them with facts and with notes, while some of these facts have actually formed the basis of their speeches. We have to the best of our ability answered all the queries put to us. Apart from that, may I also remind the Council that when I introduced the actual demand for a grant I recapitulated many of the general arguments referring to the police, mentioning also that I would deal with others in connection with specific amendments. On four or five of these specific amendments Mr. Stephenson and I replied in further detail, but five or six of them were withdrawn. I leave it to the Council to say whether it is quite fair first to withdraw amendments, and then to charge us with withholding information which we would have been perfectly willing to give had the opportunity arisen.

That, Sir, sums up in brief our attempts to elucidate the position to the Council in connection with the police budget. Babu Jatindra Nath Basu has said that it is difficult for an ordinary person to understand the *raison d'être* of a general cut, such as this particular amendment was, and I would remind the Council that the Government also is composed of ordinary persons, and it is equally difficult for them to understand the specific points which the mover had in mind. One could only in these circumstances be content to dwell on general considerations, and could hardly answer specific criticisms when none were made.

I think, Sir, in fairness to ourselves, I am entitled to bring these facts once more to the attention of the Council in justification of our contention that, to the best of our ability, and within the limits of our powers, our sole wish has been to supply to them all the information that was possible.

Mr. H. BARTON: Several members have taken exception to the action of Mr. Rhodes in having this question reopened; but the fact that the majority of the members agree that it should be brought on for discussion, makes it clear that Mr. Rhodes' proposition is a very sensible one, while the attitude of those members who have criticised it virtually amounts to a censure on the President for having allowed this discussion to take place (cries of "order, order").

A great deal has been said on the subject of the Government not placing confidence in the members of this Council. It seems to me, that this is a statement which cuts both ways. (Several voices: "Hear, hear.") Why should we for a moment suspect the Government of having dishonest intentions because they put up a demand for a certain sum of money? There are indications—I say from what I have heard during the past few days, and the various discussions that have taken place in the lobbies and elsewhere—that a good number of the members who voted against that grant have begun to realise that they did not act quite wisely. I may also say that practically all the speeches that we have heard this evening opposing the attempt of this Council to reconsider a resolution which has already been adopted indicate that the objectors are willing to patch it up and bring about a ready solution if they are only given a chance of doing so. It also justifies the impression that a number of our members feel that the throwing out of that motion for the grant to the police was done in a most merciless, thoughtless and reckless manner—I might even say in a senseless manner. You do not think that Government, in preparing the Budget, does it for the sake of mere amusement. They have gone into the Budget very carefully and I think it ought to be evident to any one who is watching the trend of events, specially as regards the claims of the workers of the various departments, that there must be a large sum in this demand which will have to go to the increase of pay of the policemen. One of our members has very generously said that if the Government will come forward and tell us plainly that this money has to some extent to be utilised for the pay of the policemen, we have no objection to giving it to them. I think it ought to have struck him without being told that it must be so utilised.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: I rise to a point of order. Does all that relate to the motion for adjournment?

The PRESIDENT: I do not think the member is in order. The question is whether a serious situation has arisen.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: May I have a decision of the President as to whether the whole of Mr. Barton's speech is irrelevant?

The PRESIDENT: I have given my ruling. The member's remarks must be relevant to the point under discussion.

Mr. H. BARTON: I do think that we ought to have an adjournment as a very serious situation has arisen. One member has said that if we go back on the resolution, we might just as well vacate our places in this Council. I say that if the resolution is put through we might as well leave the country or stay at home. I think the interest of the country and safety of the individual is concerned in this matter. As the question raises a very serious issue I beg to support Mr. Rhodes' proposal.

Mr. H. A. STARK: Let us not deceive ourselves. The fact that we consented to interrupt the business of the day and adjourn on our reduction of the police Budget by Rs. 23,50,000, is an admission that we have misgivings, and a concession to our fallibility. The truth is that since we discussed the police Budget in this Council and pruned it, we have had time to reconsider the whole matter in the light of the additional information which we have gathered. We find that we have tied ourselves into a knot and that we cannot undo our past action. At the same time we are not inclined to force the hands of His Excellency the Governor to veto our reduction of the police Budget. We are therefore in search of a *deus ex machina* a contrivance which will save the situation. Accordingly, we express our willingness to vote a supplementary grant on the recommendation of the Police Standing Committee. The question now is—can we give that Standing Committee a mandate to make any recommendation? In any case there will be some delay, for we are about to adjourn *sine die*. What are Government going to do in the meantime? Are they to work in anticipation of the supplementary grant? If they are to work to the curtailed Budget by reducing the strength or salaries of the police force, difficulties may arise, of which, at the present moment, we have no conception.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: From our experience of district boards and municipalities of Bengal, we know that when a resolution is arrived at, it cannot be altered or modified within six months. This is a salutary provision of the law which is exercised in district boards and municipalities, but it seems we have come to learn a different lesson here——

The PRESIDENT: I think I must again say that this is not a correct view of the motion under discussion. There is no resolution before the Council to undo what has been done or to reverse the decision of the Council. The only question is to draw attention to the gravity of the situation and I have pointed this out on several occasions.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: But when the discussion is going on, am I in order in referring to this matter?

The PRESIDENT: You are out of order and you must obey the chair.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: I beg to submit that only the other day we came to the conclusion that a lump sum grant of Rs. 23,00,000 for the police be not granted. To-day we come to reconsider that matter.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: I rise to a point of order. This is irrelevant.

The PRESIDENT: I have told you that you cannot go into that matter. There is no question as to whether the vote was right or wrong, and I have stated it several times.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: Then I beg to submit that when we arrived at that conclusion we also kept an open mind. We stated then that as the details were not given we come to that conclusion; and, if hereafter there is a reason for our modification of the resolution, we may consider it when the time for it will come. Only to-day the elections for the standing committees have been held; and I think it is proper for us to await the decision of the Standing Committee before we come to a conclusion.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: To-day we have heard that His Excellency has, before exercising his power of vetoing the resolution which was passed by this Council, given us an opportunity to-day of discussing the matter. From the tenor of the speeches that have been made in favour of the mover to-day, we find that some evil expressions had been in store for us. From the very moment the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler began his reply to my motion for the reduction of the police grant, he called us "irresponsible" members; and to-day he has been followed by some of his followers with the same expression; and the climax has been reached in the end by Mr. Barton. He has said that the motion was quite "senseless." (Several voices. "Hear, hear.") We must be credited with what amount of sense we possess, and we have to act according to our own judgment. We have not to borrow any sense from Mr. Barton or anybody else. We are the representatives of the people, who have very little sense. If they had any sense, they could come and show that in spending the revenue you take to a large extent from them you give them the smallest return; yet they keep silence. This is the sort of people who have elected us; and it is natural that we who represent them are wanting in sense. (Several voices "Hear, hear.") We are not merely wanting in sense, but in many things. Of course, we thank the Government for providing some money for the constables. The other day I stated that I bore no grudge against the constables and that they should have a larger proportion of the increments. What I objected to was the case of the officers drawing higher

salaries. But, at the same time, I must remind the Council that the *gurus* of *patshalas*, who are also human beings and have got to maintain their families, have to remain satisfied with only Rs. 18 a year or Re. 1-8 per month.

The PRESIDENT: The member is straying from the point. The question before the Council is not whether the money should have been spent on this or that object; but the question is whether a serious situation has been created as a result of the reduction of the grant.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: Of course, in moving that motion, I made certain suggestions. Those suggestions may not be considered advisable and we expected that some supplementary Budget grant would be brought in, showing in clearest possible terms that the expenditure was necessary for the maintenance of peace and order in the country; and without this the Government could not go on To-day a Standing Committee for the police has been constituted. We expect that this committee will consider the whole situation, and we think it quiet unnecessary to have any sort of discussion bearing on the question which we already passed through. However, as the matter has been brought before the Council and different members have expressed their views, it has done some good no doubt; and we can assure the Government that we keep an open mind and we are not in a mood to fight or thwart the Government. But our object is that we want some materials for consideration. We see that the Government could maintain peace and order in 1919-20 with a smaller sum; they could do so also with a smaller sum in the year 1920-21; but we do not know what strange circumstances have happened in the year 1921-22 so as to raise the expenditure from Rs. 1,67,00,000 to Rs. 1,90,00,000. That was the thing we resented. Of course, we know that some increments have been granted, but what we propose is that increments to the higher officials might be postponed for a year or two, because the financial situation is very stringent, we having begun the Budget with a deficit of Rs. 2½ crores. Therefore, I think that the postponement of the increment to higher officials for a year or two will not stagnate the whole Police Department or will bring in anarchy and disorder anywhere. Some of our friends apprehend that, if this amount be not granted immediately, it may not be possible for any one to pass through Burra Bazar safely to-morrow or something of that kind. One of my friends has referred to the incident of the Rajshahi Jail. May I remind him that the same police, whom he wants to fatten, have proved themselves to be quite unfit to hold charge as they could not stand in front of the prisoners and prevent them from escaping! (Cries of "Order, order.")

The PRESIDENT: You are digressing from the main point.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: My suggestion is that the Standing Committee, which has been constituted to-day, may prepare an estimate, giving due consideration to all the matters, and, if they present it before the Council, we are quite willing to grant any amount that is indispensably necessary for the upkeep of the police.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: There has been a good deal of misapprehension regarding the debate that has taken place just now. It appears that many members think that we are discussing the question as to whether the resolution which we passed the other day about the reduction of the police grant should be reconsidered or not. I think that the adjournment of the Council for considering a question of public importance simply assumes two considerations: first, that the question of public importance, and, secondly, that the question is of an urgent nature. Then the matter comes up for discussion; and, while discussing the matter, any member may of course express his own views or suggestions. Therefore, to me it seems that almost all the speakers have at least admitted the fact that a serious situation has arisen. The fact is clear from the speech of the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, as he says that he will have to reduce either the number of the police officers or that he will have to reduce their pay. The question is whether these two facts, if we take the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler's statement to be a correct one, has created a serious situation or not. If a serious situation has been created, or, in other words if there is really a sufficient ground for review, as the lawyers call it, the object of discussing this matter is simply to ascertain the opinion of the Council as to whether a question of a serious nature and of urgent public importance has arisen or not. I have listened to the various speakers, some of whom, no doubt say that this should have been done or that should not have been done; that we are not honest, we have not done our duty conscientiously. That is not the matter for discussion. The Council has simply to state its views about the situation that has arisen in consequence of the resolution that was passed reducing the police grant. That is the only question; and I think that even the members who voted for the reduction of the grant—in fact, I was not present on that particular day and I do not know what they said on that day—are, I gather from their speeches, quite willing to reconsider the matter, if fresh materials are placed before the Council. They themselves admit that a serious situation has arisen, and say: "Let us have more materials." That is the whole question before the Council; and in expressing my views, I would also state, as the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler has said, that he has no other alternative but either to reduce the number of the police force or to reduce their pay. If he has really no other alternative, we must, as ordinary men, accept his statement to be correct, unless and until we are in a position to contradict it by facts and figures—I myself must take his statement to be correct—and, if his statement is correct, then we must have to say, and

there is no gainsaying, that a very serious situation has arisen. Then there is the other question. If a serious situation has arisen, what are we to do? No definite resolution can be moved in a matter like this, no definite suggestions can be made, but each member, I think, under the rules, is perfectly at liberty to make his own suggestions regarding the matter. Some members have suggested that the matter be considered by the Standing Committee, and then the Council may reconsider it. Other members did not of course in a way oppose it. One member said that he had no confidence in the Standing Committee; another member said: "Well, I will see the opinion of the Standing Committee first, and then I will decide for myself." But, I think that when we have elected a standing committee—and it is an advisory committee—we can have at least a recommendation of that committee, and then we can have the matter discussed. So, I think, that of all the suggestions that have been made, the suggestion of the mover is the most prudent one and that it ought to be followed. Let the Standing Committee give its opinion and then we shall consider it and we shall see as to how we can avoid the serious situation. I think that 99 per cent. of us have admitted that a serious situation has arisen on account of this reduction of the police grant.

Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: I am not going to waste the precious time of this Council, which has already been wasted a little too much by long speeches. The question before us is not the merit or the demerit of the police or our want of faith in the officials who administer the police. The question is whether a serious deadlock has happened in the police administration by the refusal of the grant of Rs. 23,00,000. I understand that the increased pay sanctioned for the subordinate Indian staff cannot be paid in the face of this resolution. If so, I appeal to the members of this Council to leave aside all questions of pride and prestige and allow the Government to bring in a supplementary grant with the fullest possible explanation for discussion. The majority of the members who voted in favour of the refusal of the grant, wanted the Government to climb down, and the Government have climbed down; and we should face the situation, and allow the supplementary grant to be brought in and discussed.

Colonel A. J. PUGH: I think that Mr. Syed Nasim Ali has correctly stated that the only question before the Council is whether a serious situation has or has not arisen as a result of the resolution passed by this Council reducing the police grant. Then, what is the answer? My friend sitting below me Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray thinks that a serious situation has not arisen. He says that when they passed that resolution they could not decide as to what items should be left out, and therefore they decided to veto a lump sum and leave it to the Government to decide as to what items should be left out That is not the way we should approach a subject or the Budget. I do not wish to detain the Council further, because what I wanted to say has very well been said by

Mr. Syed Nasim Ali The whole question is whether a serious situation has or has not arisen. We know perfectly well, so far as calcutta is concerned that we want more police and that, as the police are badly paid, their pay ought to be increased. I think that a resolution was recently passed for raising the pay of the Calcutta police, and, if the pay be not increased then a very serious situation will indeed arise in the next few months

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I am glad that Mr. Rhode has brought forward this motion. I am glad not because he has given us an opportunity of recanting what we declared by our vote or of acknowledging our mistakes, for we do not acknowledge we committed any mistake, but because he has given us an opportunity of restating our position—the position we took up other day in voting for the reduction of the police grant. What was our position that day? In face of the fact that the police expenditure was going up by leaps and bounds year by year and also the fact that we were not supplied with facts and figures relating to the increased demand for Rs. 23,00,000 we could reasonably doubt and were not in a position to understand why this increase was necessary; and we voted for the reduction of the grant on the understanding that facts and figures relating to the proposed increase would be submitted before the Standing Committee which was going to be constituted. If the Standing Committee approved of it and, upon a closer examination of details, were of opinion that administration without this increased grant would be impossible, then and then only we could understand that a serious situation had arisen and, in order to solve the serious situation, if a supplementary budget for the grant were brought forward, then we should vote for the supplementary grant; otherwise we could not acknowledge that a serious situation had arisen to merit reconsideration. However, I am sorry to find that in the course of this discussion some members have not only questioned our conduct, but have called us "senseless and irresponsible" I may say that we are not irresponsible, because when we are the custodians of the people's money, we cannot vote it away, unless we are assured that the item of expenditure is absolutely necessary. The onus is upon us and, as we are not administrators, we cannot say under what heads the curtailments could be made. We can only say: "If you have sufficient reasons, very well, give us the facts and figures and convince us that the expenditure is absolutely necessary under such and such heads" The onus is on the executive to prove the necessity of a grant and not on us to show that it is otherwise, and I think, therefore, that these criticisms of our conduct are nothing but irresponsible. I would also take serious objection——

The PRESIDENT: I am sorry to interrupt the member, but the time limit of 2 hours under the rules has now elapsed and the result is that the motion has been talked out and there is no question before the Council. As it is a quarter past seven, the usual time for adjournment, the Council stands adjoruned to 3 P.M. on Monday, the 4th instant in this Chamber

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council assembled at 3 P.M. on the 4th April, 1921, in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers and 99 nominated and elected members.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): Before commencing the business of the day I would like to ask the Council's permission to send to His Excellency Lord Reading a message of welcome on the occasion of his assumption of the high office of Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

The Council agreed.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Promotion of Muhammadan assistant jailors.

***XXII. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of promoting some of the Muhammadan assistant jailors as soon as vacancies occur in the cadre of jailors?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): One Muhammadan assistant jailor has already been promoted to act as a jailor. Special promotion cannot be given to Muhammadan assistant jailors, to the detriment of officers of other communities, but Muhammadan officers who are fit for promotion will be promoted in due course.

Appointment of District Sub-Registrars.

***XXIII. Babu BHISHMADEV DAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether there are any rules for the appointment of District Sub-Registrars?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay them on the table?

(*c*) If there are no such rules, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state how these officers are selected?

(*d*) Is it a fact that a special examination of picked Sub-Registrars was instituted in 1915 for testing their fitness for performing the duties of a District Sub-Registrar?

(*e*) What has been the total cost to Government, including travelling allowances, of the examinees on account of this examination since 1915?

(*f*) Is it a fact that a promise was held out in notification No. 852 Regn., dated the 19th January, 1915, that after the end of 1915, in filling up vacancies as District Sub-Registrars, officers who have passed the examination will be given preference?

(*g*) How many of the District Sub-Registrars appointed since then have been promoted from among officers who have passed the special test and how many from those that have not passed?

(*h*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the appointments of District Sub-Registrars in recent years have been made almost invariably on the score of seniority and that the test of competency provided by the examination has not been considered?

(*i*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the Sub-Registrars, who have passed the "special test," regard the overlooking of their claim with great disappointment and discontent?

(*j*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what policy the Government intend to follow with regard to their claims?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): (*a*) Revised rule 2 of the rules regarding the special test of Sub-Registrars for District Sub-Registrarships, published by Government notification No. 1045 T.R., dated the 11th August, 1919, governs the appointment of District Sub-Registrars

(*b*) A copy of the rule is laid on the table.

(*c*) This question does not arise.

(*d*) The reply is in the affirmative.

(*e*) Exact figures are not available, but roughly the total cost amounted to about Rs. 1,200.

(*f*) Yes. But this was modified by the revised rule referred to in answer (*a*) above.

(*g*) Eighteen appointments have been made since January, 1916, of which one was filled up by the promotion of a Sub-Registrar who passed the special test and the rest by promotion from among the most efficient and senior Sub-Registrars.

(*h*) Appointments have been made in accordance with the rule referred to above.

(*i*) The Inspector-General of Registration reports that there are a few who feel disappointed.

(*j*) Government propose to consider whether the revised rule referred to in the reply to clause (*a*) should be modified.

Rule referred to in the reply to starred question No. XXIII.

2. District Sub-Registrars are ordinarily recruited from the most efficient and senior Sub-Registrars in the province, though vacancies in the rank of District Sub-Registrars for periods not exceeding six weeks are usually filled by selection on this principle from among the Sub-Registrars posted in the district. In each case, however, where other considerations are practically equal, the officer who has passed the special test will have preference.

Improvement of communications in the Baikunthapur Estate.

* **XXIV. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government received any representation in 1920, from a member of the Jalpaiguri District Board praying that the Government may direct contribution from *khas mahal* revenues for the improvement of communications in the Baikunthapur Estate to compensate for the loss of funds diverted to the improvement of roads in Government *khas mahal* by the orders of the District Board of Jalpaiguri with an alternative suggestion for directing the Board to raise loans and carry out the improvements suggested in his letter to the Chairman of the District Board of Jalpaiguri dated the 28th November, 1920?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) be in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what action Government have taken upon the said representation?

(*c*) With reference to the statement laid on the table in answer to question No. XX asked by me at the Council meeting of the 4th August, 1920, last, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in proportion to the amounts of Road and Public Works cesses realised from the Government *Khas Mahal* (Western Duars), Chaklajat estate and Baikunthapur estate, respectively, during the years 1907-08, to 1918-19, a disproportionately larger amount was spent on the construction and repair of roads during those years in the Government *Khas Mahal* than in the other two estates?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what the reasons for it are?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The representation was forwarded to the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division for disposal.

(*c*) and (*d*) A statement is laid on the table containing revised figures furnished by the Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri. In the tea garden portion of the *khas mahal* area sanitary and medical arrangements were made at the expense of the tea gardens and not of the

Board. A portion of the Board's income, which otherwise would have had to be spent on medical and sanitation work, was consequently set free and devoted to extra road making in that area. The Chaklajat and Baikunthapur estates lie in the permanently settled portion of the district, which has formed part of the province of Bengal much longer than the *khas mahal* portion and have had their most urgent needs in the matter of communications satisfied long ago. The *khas mahal* portion was taken over from Bhutan and had much greater leeway to make up in the matter of communications.

Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. XXIV.

Area.	RECEIPTS.*				
	Road cess (1907-08 to 1918-19).	Government 1½ per cent. grant for improvement of roads in the Khas Mahal area (1907-08 to 1918-19).	Public works cess (1913-14 to 1918-19).	Total	Expenditure on roads and bridges in 1907-08 to 1918-19, excluding cost of establishment on civil works
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.
Government Khas Mahal	5,45,000	1,11,954	3,29,000	9,85,954	9,80,166
Chaklajat estate ...	3,45,600	...	1,77,600	5,23,200	3,44,263
Baikunthapur estate ...	2,03,350	...	1,07,350	3,10,700	2,21,539

* In addition to these sums an augmentation grant for the district amounting to Rs. 2,39,899 was received from Government during 1907-08 to 1918-19, which roughly corresponds to the cost of the establishment maintained on civil works.

Status of Vakils.

***XXV. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department been drawn to the proceedings of a recent meeting of the Indian Legislative Assembly regarding a resolution moved by Mr. Bhurgri on the question of the status of the Vakils and in particular to the statement of the Hon'ble the Law Member on the subject?

(*b*) In view of the statement of the Hon'ble the Law Member on the subject, are the Government proposing to consult the Bengal Legislative Council before submitting their opinion to the Government of India?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) No official communication on the subject has yet been received by the local Government from the Government of India.

(*b*) In view of what has been stated in answer to clause (*a*), no definite statement can be made now.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Managers and sub-managers in Court of Wards' estates.

88. Maulvi ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state how many managers and sub-managers there are in the Court of Wards' estates under the control of the Board of Revenue and how many of them are Muhammadans?

(*b*) Is it a fact that a resolution was adopted in the Bengal Legislative Council a few years back recommending the appointment of Muhammadans, whenever opportunities occurred, as managers and sub-managers in the Court of Wards' estates?

(*c*) Is it a fact that recently an appointment of this nature was made in an Eastern Bengal district?

(*d*) Is it a fact that there were several Muhammadan candidates for the vacancy?

(*e*) What was the reason for not appointing a Muhammadan to the vacancy?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (LAND REVENUE) (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) There are twenty-one managers and three assistant managers in the estates under the Court of Wards, and, of these, only one is a Muhammadan.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) and (*e*) The questions do not arise.

Non-performance of "janaza" prayer at the funeral of dead prisoners in the Dacca Jail and the appointment of Muhammadan preachers to reform the character of the inmates of that Jail.

89. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware that no *janaza* prayers are performed on the occasion of the funeral of such Muhammadan prisoners as die in the Dacca Jail?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of taking necessary steps to see that the *janaza* prayers are offered before the dead bodies are removed to the burial-grounds?

(*c*) Have the Government considered the desirability of appointing Muhammadan preachers to preach every Friday, for an hour or so, with a view to reform the character of the inmates of the Dacca Jail as is done in the Alipore Central Jail and other places?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) In the case of Muhammadan prisoners dying in the Dacca Central Jail, *janaza* prayers are not arranged for by the Jail Department, as the dead bodies are made over to the local Municipality for disposal.

(*b*) Instructions are being issued to Superintendents of all jails—

(*1*) to ascertain from local recognised Muhammadan Associations whether they are willing to take charge of the bodies of such prisoners and give them burial in accordance with the requirements of the Muhammadan religion;

(*2*) to arrange for the burial of deceased Muhammadan prisoners through such associations as are willing to undertake this duty.

(*c*) Government have granted permission to some Muhammadan gentlemen to give moral instruction to Muhammadan prisoners in certain jails and have also issued directions to permit a Muhammadan preacher to preach to Muhammadan prisoners in all jails in Bengal. No one volunteered for such work in the Dacca Central Jail. Steps are being taken to ascertain what arrangements can be made for imparting religious instruction on Fridays to Muhammadan prisoners.

Differential treatment of votes in municipal or other local bodies' elections.

90. Maulvi AZAHARUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to say whether in municipal elections a voter can give all his votes to one candidate, whereas in elections under the Local Self-Government Act he cannot do so?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reason for this difference?

(*c*) Do the Government intend to make the rule uniform in all the elections?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The papers in the possession of Government do not show what was the reason for making this difference, which dates back to 1886

(*c*) Government are prepared to consider the matter after consulting local bodies.

Agricultural demonstrators.

91. Maulvi AZAHARUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state separately how many of the Hindu and Muhammadan

demonstrators belong to the *bonâ fide* agricultural class and on what principle they have been appointed?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): Hindu, 28; Muhammadan, 23.

These men have all been through a course of training on a Government farm and have had to pass a practical examination before they were permanently appointed.

Amount spent for the Agricultural Department and the number of bighas of land under Government cultivation and the average annual outturn per bigha for each crop.

92. Khan Bahadur KHWAJA MOHAMED AZAM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state how much money is annually spent for the maintenance of the Agricultural Department and how many bighas of land are now under Government cultivation?

(*b*) Is all the cost incurred in connection with each bigha of land borne by the Government?

(*c*) What is the average annual outturn per bigha for each crop?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) The amount varies from year to year. The estimated expenditure for 1921-22 is Rs. 11,25,000.

The total area of land under cultivation in the several farms under this Department is about 2,100 bighas.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The average annual outturn for the main crops is given below—

Paddy—6 to 8 maunds.

Jute—6 to 10 maunds.

Sugarcane—28 to 30 maunds of *gur*.

Tagore loan.

93. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Maharaja Sir Prodyot Kumar Tagore Bahadur, Kt., has made arrangements for repayment in full of the balance of the loan which had been advanced to him by the Government of India amounting to about Rs. 26,00,000 and, if so, whether the money is expected to be received from him during the ensuing financial year?

(*b*) If the answer be in the affirmative, are the Government of Bengal considering the advisability of approaching the Government of India with a request to advance the money as a loan to Bengal in view of the deficit in the Provincial Budget?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) Maharaja Sir Prodyot Kumar Tagore Bahadur has proposed a fresh settlement, the object of which is to enable him to repay the balance of the loans advanced to him by the Government of India.

(*b*) No.

Industries Department and help to industrial concerns.

94. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Industries Department has got any sum of money at its disposal to help industrial concerns? If so, how many concerns have so far been helped; and

(*ii*) whether the Industries Department helps private companies to acquire land for industrial purposes? If so, how many European and how many Indian firms were so helped?

(*b*) Did the Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works, Limited, apply for such help? Was the help given? If not, why not?

(*c*) Did the Industries Department send any exhibits to the British Industrial Fair? If not, why not?

(*d*) Has the Director of Industries done anything with regard to—

(1) the housing of labourers,

(2) strikes,

(3) organisation of market,

(4) indigenous medicines,

(5) glass-works, or

(6) manufactures of paper?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) (*i*) No provision has been made in the Budget estimates for this particular purpose, but there is a lump provision of Rs. 1,20,000 for the development of industries. So far no industrial concern has been given financial assistance.

(*ii*) The Industries Department examines applications of private firms desiring acquisition of lands for industrial purposes and submits proposals with its recommendations to the local Government for decision. Since the creation of the Department, the applications of the

undernoted (Indian and European) firms have been supported by this Department:—

Indian firms.

(1) Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works.
(2) National Tannery.

European firms.

(1) Marshall and Sons.
(2) Burn and Company.
(3) Davenport and Company.
(4) Thornycroft (India), Limited.

(*b*) Yes. An inquiry under section 40 of the Land Acquisition Act was made, but on receipt of a letter from the Government of India in which it was stated that acquisition for private companies was not legal unless the public were to be directly benefited by the Act, further proceedings were dropped. The Company then represented that they were willing to submit to conditions which would confer direct benefit on the public. The proceedings were then resumed. The Company, however, have arranged for the purchase of a part of the land, and their amended proposals are awaited.

(*c*) The Industries Department participated in the fair held last year, but they could not do so this year owing to the notice being received too late to make any arrangement for the purpose.

(*d*) No. The general question of the housing of labourers is under the consideration of the Government of India.

The member is referred to the reply given to unstarred question No. 14, asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 7th February last, and to pages 71-80 of the Journal of Indian Industries and Labour, Volume I, Part I, published in February, 1921.

The Department has taken steps to find markets for the sale of cotton and silk embroideries, dextrine, starch, potash and soft soap.

The Department has compiled a list of chemicals manufactured by the principal chemical manufacturing concerns of Bengal and submitted it to the Government of India for publication.

The Department has successfully recommended the applications of the Raja Glass Works, the Calcutta Glass Works and Messrs. Peer Mohammad and Sons for necessary facilities to secure supplies of coal through the Coal Transportation Officer.

Scientific and technical information has been given on the subject to a number of inquirers.

Formation of local boards in Comilla.

95. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state when effect is going to be given to the clauses of the Local Self-Government Act for the formation of local boards by election by union boards in Comilla?

(*b*) Why has this not been given effect to up till now?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: The member appears to be under a misapprehension, for the Local Self-Government Act does not provide for members of local boards being elected by union boards.

Inadequate representation of Patuakhali on the Bakarganj District Board.

96. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state what action the Government are going to take upon the representation of the people of Patuakhali against the decisions of the District Board of Bakarganj about the number of District Board members allotted to Patuakhali and the low percentage of expenditure for the Patuakhali subdivision?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: The representation will be considered by Government before they pass orders about the distribution of elected seats on the District Board among the different Local Boards.

Rent sales.

97. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state the number of rent sales in the courts of Bengal, district by district, from 1910 to 1920, year by year?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the number of applications to set aside those sales, with results?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the percentage of applications to set aside those sales rejected in the courts of Bengal, district by district, from 1910 to 1920, year by year?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the value of agricultural lands has increased by leaps and bounds during these ten years?

(*e*) If so, by what proportion has the value increased?

(*f*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that tenure-holders find it more profitable to keep lands in khas possession rather than keep them with raiyats?

g) Are the Government aware that as a result processes and sale lamations of rent execution proceedings are suppressed?

h) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware of the fact that there has been sproportionate increase in the rent sales during recent years?

i) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of inquir- from the Bar Associations of Bengal as to the cause of the increase nt sales and of calling for suggestions in the matter of these sales?

he Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The labour lved in the compilation of the statistics called for is incommen- te with their utility and the Government do not consider, therefore, they would be justified in undertaking the work involved in their ilation.

d) The answer is in the negative.

e) The question does not arise.

f), (*g*), (*h*) and (*i*) The answer is in the negative.

Duties of district agricultural officers.

8. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister harge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased ate the duties of district agricultural officers of Bengal?

b) Is it a fact that some of those officers do nothing but sell potato jute seeds and act as agents for foreign vegetable seeds?

c) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the number of on which the district agricultural officers of Bengal were on tour, ict by district, from the years 1918 to 1920 separately, and the ber of days they were beyond the sadar subdivisions of the districts?

he Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, n Bahadur: (*a*) The main duties of the agricultural officers are to the cultivators interested in agricultural improvement by personal ussion and visual demonstration. They are the chief means by h the Department brings home the results of scientific research and riment to the agricultural population. The agricultural officers v the people in their own fields and on demonstration farms the ntages of improved methods and of improved varieties of crops and manures and suggest remedies for crop diseases, insect pests, etc. se officers are also responsible for organising village agricultural ciations and seed stores, which play an important part in introduc- agricultural improvements of proved efficacy among the cultivators. y also have much work to do in connection with crop forecasts and mates.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 98, showing the number of days on which the District Agricultural Officers of Bengal were on tour during 1918, 1919 and 1920.

DISTRICT.	1918.		1919.		1920.	
	Number of days on tour.	Number of days beyond Sadar subdivision.	Number of days on tour.	Number of days beyond Sadar subdivision.	Number of days on tour.	Number of days beyond Sadar subdivision
Dacca ...	288	126	196	76	230	95
Narayanganj ...	...	...	289	142	285	134
Mymensingh ...	210	167	270	147	166	105
Kisorganj ...	...	...	...	...	91	91
Jamalpur ...	...	...	175	175	185	185
Faridpur ...	215	144	226	158	228	130
Bakarganj ...	196	91	158	58	143	52
Tippera ...	211	108	219	170	226	176
Chittagong ...	136	22	166	164	123	31
Noakhali ...	176	96	212	112	220	116
Rangpur ...	134	105	264	221	270	220
Dinajpur ...	266	210	271	230	268	215
Jalpaiguri ...	193	160	268	224	260	213
Bogra ...	214	185	254	205	263	210
Pabna ...	225	195	272	210	270	220
Malda ...	174	120	269	201	262	212
Rajshahi ...	220	180	270	212	276	220
Darjeeling ...	...	...	160	124	246	120
Murshidabad ...	61	38	222	156	215	158
Nadia ...	72	53	194	143	136	84
Meherpur ...	...	...	...	...	170	...
Jessore ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Khulna ...	...	...	...	...	92	47
24-Parganas ...	25	19	224	158	222	182

DISTRICT.	1918.		1919.		1920.	
	Number of days on tour.	Number of days beyond Sadar subdivision.	Number of days on tour.	Number of days beyond Sadar subdivision	Number of days on tour.	Number of days beyond Sadar subdivision.
Bankura ...	202	70	183	88	203	35
Bishnupur ...	...	...	220	...	130	...
Midnapore ...	277	147	198	117	262	155
Ghatal ...	...	...	...	...	122	...
Howrah ...	...	...	73	42	151	122
Hooghly ...	...	...	221	...	201	26
Burdwan ...	7	4	198	141	201	123
Suri ...	270	52	290	60	288	56
Rampurhat ...	...	192	...	295	...	287
Bolpur ...	15	3	277	147	244	61

Muhammadan officers in Veterinary Department.

99. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state the percentage of Muhammadan officers in higher and lower grades of the Veterinary Department of Bengal?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware of the discontent prevailing among the Muhammadan veterinary officers on account of their not getting their share in the higher grade appointments?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to say whether the Government are considering the desirability of setting apart a proportion of the higher grade appointments of the Veterinary Department for the Muhammadans?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Provincial service—12·5 per cent.; Subordinate service—Inspectors, 6 per cent.; Veterinary Assistants, 14·6 per cent.

(*b*) Government have no information to this effect.

(*c*) Yes.

Muhammadan estates under Court of Wards.

100. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to

state the number of Muhammadan estates under the Court of Wards from 1915 to 1921, year by year?

(*b*) Is it a fact that in reply to a question by the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq the Government gave an assurance to appoint suitable Muhammadan managers in the Muhammadan estates under the Court of Wards?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the number and names of the Muhammadan managers appointed since that time?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) There were ten such estates in the year 1918 and nine in the other years.

(*b*) No; but, in a resolution passed on the 3rd September, 1918, the Council recommended that whenever practicable and desirable, suitable Muhammadan officers be appointed to be managers of the Muhammadan estates under the Court of Wards.

(*c*) Since then, no managership of a Muhammadan estate has fallen vacant and no Muhammadan manager has been appointed

Grievances of the Patuakhali people against the Bakarganj District Board.

101. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware of any representation made to the Government by the people of Patuakhali against the decisions of the District Board of Bakarganj about the allotment of the number of District Board members from the Patuakhali subdivision and about the low percentage of annual expenditure for the Patuakhali subdivision by the District Board?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: The answer is in the affirmative.

Insanitary condition of Burra Bazar and consequent increase in the death-rate.

102. Babu CHANESHYAMDAS BIRLA: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government been drawn to the general insanitary condition of Burra Bazar and the prevailing high death-rate in that locality?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what measures the Government have taken or propose to take for improving the sanitary condition of Burra Bazar?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the Burra Bazar Objections Committee of the Calcutta Improvement Trust completed its report some time ago?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the Objections Committee recommended that a park should be opened at the junction of Burtolla Street and Jag Mohan Mullick Street without delay?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken to open the park referred to in (*d*) and when the park may be expected to be opened?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Government are taking no action for improving the sanitary condition of Burra Bazar. The Calcutta Corporation and the Calcutta Improvement Trust are the responsible authorities.

(*c*) The Calcutta Improvement Trust in 1918 resolved that a series of improvement schemes should be undertaken in Burra Bazar. As a necessary preliminary a series of road alignments was prepared covering the whole area and these have been considered by a representative committee: the committee's report was submitted to the Improvement Trust in March, 1921, and is now under consideration.

(*d*) The majority of the committee recommend that an open space should be made at the junction of Burtolla Street and Jag Mohan Mullick Street.

(*e*) The Improvement Trust has not yet considered the recommendation.

Derailment of trains of the Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway.

103. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works aware how often during each of the last six years trains have got derailed on the Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway?

(*b*) Has the complaint that evening trains on that light railway are run without lights, even in ladies' compartments, attracted the notice of the Government?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) Derailments have occurred during the last six years as follows:—

1915-16	9
1916-17	6
1917-18	3
1918-19	4
1919-20	9
1920-21	8

(*b*) Complaints regarding defective lighting of trains have been received by the Railway administration. As far as possible, action has been taken to improve the lighting arrangements. Further enquiries will be made as to the adequacy of the lighting, and steps will be taken, as far as possible, to improve matters if found inadequate.

Agricultural farms and Joint Fisheries Department.

104. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to furnish the following information:—

(*i*) whether the farms at Manipur (Dacca), Chinsura and Rangpur are exclusively experimental farms or whether they are partly experimental and partly demonstration farms;

(*ii*) what has been the total cost of maintenance of each of these farms for the last three years (to be shown separately);

(*iii*) what money contribution, if any, was made to the Pusa Agricultural Station, Sabour Agricultural College and Sabour Agricultural Farm;

(*iv*) are there any specific conditions under which these contributions were made;

(*v*) what was the total cost of maintenance and gross income of the breeding farm at Rangpur for the last three years (to be shown separately);

(*vi*) what money contributions have been made for the Cleghorn experiments (sericulture) during the last three years, and what were the conditions attached to the result of these experiments; and

(*vii*) what contributions have been received from the Bihar and Orissa Government towards the maintenance of the Joint Fishery Department during the last three years (to be shown separately for each year)?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*i*) The Dacca and Chinsura Farms are exclusively experimental. At Rangpur there are three farms, viz., Rangpur Demonstration Farm, Rangpur Cattle Farm, Burirhat Tobacco Farm. The first is purely a demonstration farm, the second one is purely experimental, and the third is both an experimental and a demonstration farm.

(*ii*) The member is referred to the reply given to unstarred question No. 112 (*d*).

(*iii*) and (*iv*) No contribution is made by the Government of Bengal towards the maintenance of any agricultural institutions or farms outside this Presidency.

(*v*) The Member is referred to the reply to unstarred question No. 112 (*d*).

(*vi*) 1918-19, Rs. 16,500; 1919-20, Rs. 16,500; 1920-21, Rs. 16,500.

The object of the contribution is to enable Miss Cleghorn to continue and extend her experimental and research work in connection with the production of hybrid races of silkworms. The work is purely experimental and no conditions are attached. The experiments made are, however, so far promising and the results will be found in detail in her annual reports.

(*vii*) According to the Provincial Financial Settlement made with the Government of India on the separation of Bihar and Orissa from Bengal in 1912 a sum of Rs. 39,000 was taken as the standard expenditure for the joint staff of the Fisheries Department of the two provinces and any excess expenditure over this sum was divided equally between the two provinces. The figures showing the contributions from the Government of Bihar and Orissa towards the excess expenditure for the last three years are given below:—

				Rs
1917-18		...	...	2,457
1918-19	...	...	...	4,260
1919-20	...	...	...	6,142

Attendance in the Royal Botanic Garden office.

105. Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries aware of the fact that the assistants in the office of the Superintendent, Royal Botanic Garden, Sibpur, are required to attend office punctually at 10 A.M.?

(*b*) Is it a fact that in other Government offices in Calcutta assistants are required to come at 11 A.M.?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that these office assistants have to come from very great distances?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of passing orders directing that the assistants of that office be allowed to attend office from 11 A.M.?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) It is not a fact that the assistants in the office of the Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden, Sibpur, are required to attend office punctually at 10 A.M. The usual hour of attendance is 10 A.M. but half an hour's grace is always allowed.

(*b*) No. The usual hour of attendance is 10-30 A.M.

(c) Four out of twelve assistants have to come from distances ranging from 5 to 7 miles, and one assistant, who lives at Ulubaria and is a daily passenger, has to come from a distance of about 20 miles.

(d) No.

Mr. Hannah and Kalighat Tramway tragedy.

106. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state—

(i) whether it is a fact that Mr. J. S. Hannah, Deputy Commissioner of Police, was the officer in charge of the police force near the Kalighat tramway depôt on the 18th January last;

(ii) whether it is a fact that a judicial inquiry regarding the incidents at Kalighat on that day is still pending undetermined;

(iii) whether Mr. J. S. Hannah has taken leave and is shortly going out of India; and

(iv) whether Government have considered the desirability of keeping Mr. Hannah in India till the publication of the report of the judicial inquiry?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): (i) and (ii) Yes.

(iii) Arrangements were made in January to grant leave to Mr. Hannah on the return of Mr. Kidd from leave. Mr. Hannah was relieved by Mr. Kidd on the 1st March, and after waiting till the 8th March, when he gave evidence before the enquiring officer, he left India on leave on the 10th March.

(iv) This was not considered to be necessary.

Revised minimum and maximum pay for certain services.

107. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state the revised minimum and the maximum pays of the following services:—

(1) Provincial Educational Service;
(2) Provincial Executive Service;
(3) Provincial Judicial Service;
(4) Provincial Engineering Service;
(5) Provincial Agricultural Service;
(6) Provincial Veterinary Service;
(7) Provincial Medical Service (Military);
(8) Provincial Medical Service (Civil); and
(9) Indian Medical Service?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether members of the Provincial Services (Upper) have actually drawn their pay according to the revised scale? If not, why not?

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): (*a*) A statement giving the information required is laid on the table.

(*b*) Yes.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 107.

(1) Provincial Educational Service ...	Minimum ...	250
	Maximum ...	800
(2) Provincial Executive Service ...	Minimum ...	250
	Maximum ...	1,000
(3) Provincial Judicial Service ...	Minimum ...	275
	Maximum ...	1,200
(4) Provincial Engineering Service ...	Minimum ...	250
	Maximum ...	750
(5) Provincial Agricultural Service ...	Minimum ...	250
	Maximum ...	750
(6) Provincial Veterinary Service ...	Minimum ...	250
	Maximum ...	750
(7) Provincial Medical Service (Military)	Minimum ...	200
	Maximum ...	700
(8) Provincial Medical Service (Civil)—		
(*a*) In ordinary cases ...	Minimum ...	200
	Maximum ...	450
(*b*) Assistant Surgeons, when appointed as Civil Surgeons.	Minimum ...	500
	Maximum ...	1,000
(9) Indian Medical Service	The rates of pay sanctioned for this class of officers vary according to their ranks and also to the importance of the different posts held by them. A copy of the resolution of the Government of India fixing the new scales of pay for officers of this service is laid on the table.	

Failure of rice-crops in Khulna district.

108. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to say whether it is a fact that there has been a failure of rice-crops in the Khulna district?

(*b*) If so, what is the extent thereof?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking any relief measures in connection therewith?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) The rice-crop has failed in a portion of the Khulna district.

(*b*) The crop has completely failed in an area of 59 square miles consisting of isolated plots in thana Paikgacha on the east of the river Kobadak and in parts of thanas Asasuni, Tala, Shyamnagar and Kaliganj on the west of that river. There has, however, been a good crop in adjacent lands and the estimated outturn of the crop for the district as a whole is 92 per cent.

(*c*) The District Board have proposed to take up construction of roads on a considerable scale in the affected area both in order to improve communications as well as to provide work for the destitute. Distribution of agricultural loans will also be made before the commencement of the cultivating season. No further relief measures are considered necessary at present.

"Goondaism" in Calcutta.

109. Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department in a position to make a statement as to the extent of *goondaism* in Calcutta and as to which quarters of Calcutta are mostly affected?

(*b*) What is the approximate number of *goondas* known to the Calcutta Police and where do they mostly reside and which districts do they mostly come from?

(*c*) What is the strength of the special force at present dealing with them?

(*d*) Have the Government come to any decision as to whether, and, if so, what extra power it requires to suppress *goondaism*?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): (*a*) and (*b*) The problem of *goondaism* in Calcutta is now under investigation by a special police staff deputed for the purpose. The investigation has not yet been finished, but from reports so far received it appears that the majority of *goondas* come from the Mirzapore and Benares districts in the United Provinces, and from Peshawar.

They reside chiefly in Burra Bazar, Jorasanko, Jorabagan, Burtolla and Muchipara in the town, and Belliaghatta in the suburbs.

(*c*) The strength of the special police force is one assistant commissioner two sub-inspectors, two assistant sub-inspectors and six constables.

(*d*) Government have not yet come to any decision.

Raiyats and the non-transferability of their occupancy holdings.

110. Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) aware that great dissatisfaction prevails amongst the raiyats of this province on account of the provision of the Bengal Tenancy Act, which makes occupancy holdings non-transferable without the consent of the landlord and which prohibits them from cutting down and appropriating trees planted by themselves on their holdings?

(*b*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member been drawn to the observations made in 1914 by a Full Bench of the Hon'ble the High Court of Calcutta, in the case of Dayamoyi *versus* Annada Mohan Roy Chaudhuri, reported in 18 C.W.N., page 971, at page 991, where they have said: "We would only add that the uncertainty as to the transferability of holdings has been one of the most fruitful sources of litigation and it is urgently necessary that it should be set at rest by the legislature?"

(*c*) If the answer to clauses (*a*) and (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state why the Government have not taken as yet any steps to legislate over the matter?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table the following statements:—

(*1*) A statement showing the number of different kinds of voluntary transfers of occupancy holdings in the different districts of Bengal, from the year 1910 to the year 1919.

(*2*) A statement of the number of compulsory sales of such holdings by courts in the different districts of Bengal, other than rent sales, under the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act, from the year 1910 to the year 1919.

(*3*) A statement of the number of ejectment suits instituted by landlords against purchasers of occupancy holdings, on the ground of non-transferability, in the different districts of Bengal, from the year 1910 to the year 1919.

(*4*) A statement of the number of suits for damages instituted by landlords for cutting down and appropriating trees, on occupancy holdings against the raiyats, from the year 1910 to the year 1919?

(*e*) Is it not a fact that a Bill amending the Bengal Tenancy Act, giving a qualified right of transfer was drafted, circulated, and that opinions were invited on the same?

(*i*) If the answer to question (*e*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table the draft Bill as well as all the papers and correspondence on the subject?

(*ii*) If the answer to question (*e*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state why the Government have dropped the Bill?

(*f*) (*i*) Is it not a fact that a considerable number of judicial officers have expressed themselves against non-transferability in their report on the working of the Bengal Tenancy Act?

(*ii*) If the reply to (*f*) (*i*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state how many officers wrote in favour of transferability and how many against the same, during the year 1910 to the year 1919?

(*g*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member been drawn to the judgment of the full Bench of the Hon'ble the Calcutta High Court, dated the 1st June, 1920, in the case of Chandra Binode Kundu *versus* Shaikh Alla Bux Dewan, reported in 24 C.W.N., page 818, in which it has been held that all occupancy holdings are liable to be sold for the ordinary debts of the raiyats without their consent?

(*h*) Is it a fact that since that ruling was issued a good many occupancy holdings have been sold by courts, in spite of the objections of the raiyats?

(*i*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what is the policy of Government on the subject?

(*j*) Do the Government intend in the course of this year to introduce a Bill amending the Bengal Tenancy Act, by making provision for the grant of the right of transfer to occupancy raiyats?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) Dissatisfaction on various grounds has been reported from time to time but the grounds usually given for such dissatisfaction are the exaction of *abwabs* and other acts which are contrary to the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The answer is given below in reply to (*e*).

(*d*) Materials for such statements are not readily available and could only be collected by a scrutiny of case records. The labour involved in such a scrutiny would not, in the opinion of Government, be justified.

(*e*) Yes.

(*i*) A copy of the draft Bill will be laid on the library table. The papers and correspondence cannot be laid on the table.

(*ii*) The criticisms on the draft Bill and on the attempts to revise it, showed the great difficulties in the way of framing a satisfactory Bill. In 1919, the Hon'ble Sir J. G. Cumming finally decided not to proceed further for the present, as he considered that there was no real demand for legislation.

(*f*) (*i*) and (*ii*) Reports by judicial officers on the working of the Bengal Tenancy Act have not been received by Government.

(*g*) A report of this case has been seen.

(*h*) No information about this has been received.

(*i*) and (*j*) A private Bill for amending a part of the Bengal Tenancy Act has been received and is now awaiting the sanction of the Governor-General to its introduction. The policy of Government towards this Bill cannot be stated at present.

Deputy Directors of Agriculture and Sericulture.

111. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state the nature of additional work which necessitated the creation of a post of another Deputy Director of Agriculture and a Deputy Director, Sericulture?

(*b*) What is the amount spent up to date on sericulture and the result so far achieved?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) The Additional Deputy Director of Agriculture is required to cope with the rapid expansion of work in the Western Circle. The circle as it is now constituted, comprises two large and agriculturally important divisions, viz., Burdwan and Presidency Divisions, and it is impossible for one Deputy Director to manage both the divisions efficiently.

The Sericultural Department has not yet got its administrative head and in view of the great possibilities of the Department it has long been recognised as necessary to provide it with an officer of the status of Deputy Director for Sericulture, who will formulate a policy and direct investigations in the right channels.

(*b*) The amount spent up to date on Sericulture is Rs. 12,10,176 and the receipts therefrom amount to Rs. 3,59,447 For the results so far achieved, the member is referred to the annual reports of the Agriculture Department. Since 1908 efforts have successfully been made to produce disease-free seed cocoons for supply to professional silk-worm rearers. The sericultural nurseries have been able to supply about 28 per cent. of the total requirements.

Agricultural demonstrators.

112. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state from what class of people agricultural demonstrators to the number of 50 will be recruited and what qualifications will be required of them?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether it is the intention of the authorities to make selections for these appointments from practical agriculturists?

(*c*) Is there any truth in the complaint that the largest portion of the agricultural allotment goes for the salaries of officials and their travelling expenses and very little is spent for agricultural development or for helping practical agriculturists?

(*d*) What was the amount of capital and yearly expenditure of every agricultural farm in Bengal, the result of the outlay and income derived up to date?

(*e*) What are the names and number of districts in which agricultural improvements have been made through the efforts of the Agricultural Department and the nature of any agricultural achievements, if any?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) and (*b*) The 50 new demonstrators to be appointed in 1921-22 will be recruited from the men who have received practical training in a farm at least for one year and have passed the practical examination held last year by the Deputy Directors of Agriculture or who are now completing their apprenticeship on the farm. Most of these men belong to the agricultural class.

(*c*) The reply is in the negative.

(*d*) A statement showing the figures as far as available is laid on the table.

(*e*) It is not possible to describe in a short space the various activities of the Department in the several districts of the Presidency. The attention of the member is therefore invited to the annual reports of the Department.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 112(d).

Year.	Dacca Farm.		Chinsurah Farm.		Rajshahi Farm.		Rangpur Demonstration Farm.	
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1907-08	2,400 7 9	17,417 15 0	...	...	975 2 6	9,487 15 0	...	...
1908-09	3,505 12 3	25,020 2 6	...	9,580 1 10	912 6 6	6,992 12 9	...	...
1909-10	4,511 15 0	89,384 9 0	138 5 9	15,335 6 3	1,400 8 6	11,177 2 0	...	...
1910-11	5,470 8 6	59,623 7 9	4,385 4 6	11,773 13 6	2,509 14 0	8,299 7 4	...	...
1911-12	5,508 12 3	44,860 8 3	7,542 1 6	13,929 0 10	2,406 9 6	7,865 15 9	...	...
1912-13	5,758 2 9	34,571 8 4	6,289 14 0	10,320 12 11	1,733 3 6	5,978 2 5	747 5 6	2,128 1 9
1913-14	11,653 7 3	27,688 9 10	10,117 15 9	9,272 2 3	3,395 12 9	10,232 1 0	1,564 0 3	3,287 0 0
1914-15	11,313 9 0	18,938 14 0	9,293 1 1	11,562 11 7	2,942 2 6	7,802 1 6	3,082 4 0	2,467 10 6
1915-16	11,506 8 0	27,968 5 0	15,005 12 7	31,697 12 4	6,403 11 0	9,775 11 9	2,007 1 3	2,400 0 0
1916-17	12,178 9 4	35,048 1 0	7,231 13 9	16,049 15 10	3,227 11 0	9,804 14 0	2,777 14 0	2,958 0 0
1917-18	3,232 6 9	53,396 0 0	12,416 15 0	13,117 3 7	5,433 0 0	9,609 10 4	1,618 8 3	3,459 0 0
1918-19	2,962 5 6	55,845 0 0	9,318 11 9	17,149 15 7	5,193 13 3	6,220 0 0	1,795 11 3	7,290 0 0
1919-20	2,356 10 3	48,350 0 0	12,642 2 3	27,788 11 0	6,526 1 0	8,504 0 0	1,567 1 0	5,9 5 6

With the exception of Mymensingh, Tippera, Bogra, Pabna, Bakarganj and Birbhum, the expenditure does not include capital charges on buildings which were constructed by the Public Works Department.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 112(d)—concld.

Year.	Burirhat Farm.		Rangpur Cattle Farm.		Mymensingh.		Tippera.		Bogra.		Pabna.	Bakarganj.	Birbhum.
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Expenditure.	Expenditure.	Expenditure.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1907-08	2,900 8 3	20,930 12 2											
1908-09	1,896 12 6	8,096 5 6											
1909-10	2,600 8 0	11,838 6 9											
1910-11	2,660 12 3	12,835 5 0											
1911-12	2,596 8 6	10,735 12 3											
1912-13	2,944 8 3	8,557 10 0											
1913-14	900 13 4	9,868 0 3											
1914-15	1,739 14 3	8,316 2 3	9,837 3 8	53,582 0 6									
1915-16	483 2 0	8,506 10 6	20,212 1 8	48,346 3 9									
1916-17	2,292 6 3	8,608 12 3	18,681 2 0	30,855 4 6									
1917-18	6,058 11 6	8,100 0 0	13,696 0 3	23,692 8 9									
1918-19	8,174 8 9	8,863 10 9	10,061 13 6	39,461 7 3	...	22,318	...	15,368	...	9,842 6 8			
1919-20	6,480 4 9	12,880 0 0	9,180 5 6	41,970 12 9	1,000	18,538	800	25,422	900	18,538 0 0	...	21,809	4,295

With the exception of Mymensingh, Tippera, Bogra, Pabna, Bakarganj and Birbhum the expenditure does not include capital charges on buildings which were constructed by the Public Works Department.

Appointment of Council Secretaries from among the non-official members.

113. Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether the Government intend to appoint Council Secretaries, from among the non-official members of the local legislature, as provided for by section 52 (*4*) of the Government of India Act?

(*b*) If not, why not?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the provision was made with a view to train up members in the work of actual administration?

(*d*) How are the proposed fifth Secretary and his staff and also additional Deputy Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries, for which appointments provision has been made in the Secretariat budget, going to be recruited?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) and (*b*) The matter is at present under the consideration of Government, and no decision has as yet been arrived at.

(*c*) Paragraph 224 of the Joint Report and the remarks of the Joint Committee in relation to clause 4 of the Government of India Bill indicate the idea underlying the suggestion.

(*d*) It is presumed that clerical staff is not covered by this question

The present fifth Secretary is a member of the Indian Civil Service, as also is the one Deputy Secretary so far appointed. Three Assistant Secretaries have been recruited up to date, viz., two from the Bengal Civil Service (Executive), and one from the Provincial Executive Service.

Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: May I ask when the decision of Government is likely to be known?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I think a decision will be come to very shortly.

List of certain heads of expenditure not requiring submission to the Council.

114. Colonel A. J. PUGH: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to furnish the following:—

A list, as far as Bengal is concerned, of all items of "expenditure of which the amount is prescribed by or under any law" [referred to in section 72 D (*3*) (*iii*) of the Government of India Act], including in each case the specific legislation on the subject, and the details of such items.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): A list of such items in the Budget estimate for the year 1921-22 is laid on the table.

List referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 114.

List of items of expenditure included in the Bengal Budget Estimate for 1921-22 of which the amount is prescribed by or under any law.

Serial No.	Major head of expenditure.	Nature of the charge.	Amount provided.	Reference to enactment.
1	2	3	4	5
			Rs.	
1	22—General Administration.	Salary of His Excellency the Governor.	1,20,000	Section 85 and Second Schedule of the Government of India Act.
2	Ditto ...	Salaries of the Members of the Executive Council.	2,56,000	Ditto ditto
3	Ditto ...	Salaries of the Ministers.	1,92,000	Section 52 of the Government of India Act.
4	Ditto ...	Salaries of the °President and of the †Deputy President of the Legislative Council.	41,000	° Section 72C (5) of the Government of India Act † Deputy President's Emoluments Act, Bengal, 1921.
5	Contributions and assignments to the Government of India.	Fixed contribution to the Government of India.	63,00,000	Sections 45A and 129A of the Government of India Act and rule 17 of the Devolution Rules framed thereunder.
6	43—Famine Relief.	Famine relief and insurance against famine.	2,00,000	Sections 45A and 129A of the Government of India Act and rule 29 and Schedule IV of the Devolution Rules framed thereunder.

Discontinuance of the construction of wells and tanks by Mymensingh District Board.

115. Maulvi MUHAMMAD RAFIQUE UDDIN KHAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the District Board of Mymensingh has discontinued the construction of wells and tanks in the district?

(*b*) If it is a fact, will the Government be pleased to state the reason why it has done so?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) It is not a fact. Rupees 52,264 were provided on this account in the Budget for 1920-21 and Rs. 51,100 have been provided in the Budget for 1921-22.

(*b*) No reply is necessary.

Relief of cultivators in Khulna district suffering from the cyclone of 1920.

116. Babu SAILAJA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state—

(*i*) the amount spent on gratuitous relief and advances to the cultivators in the district of Khulna after the last cyclone;

(*ii*) the number of men who received such aid; and

(*iii*) the number of men from whom the advances have not yet been realised and the amount still outstanding?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*i*) A sum of Rs. 33,526 was spent on gratuitous relief, and Rs. 1,77,973 were advanced to cultivators.

(*ii*) Gratuitous relief was given to 19,867 persons, while 15,995 persons received advances.

(*iii*) Advances have not yet been realised from 9,421 persons; the amount still outstanding is Rs. 1,03,484.

Rent Controller.

117. Babu SAILAJA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the reasons why a pensioner was appointed as Rent Controller in supersession of the claims of equally capable men?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: Government appointed Rai Bangsidhar Banerjee Bahadur, C.I.E., after careful consideration, in view of his intimate knowledge of land values and rents in Calcutta.

Dietary arrangement in Campbell Hospital.

118. Babu SAILAJA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the patients in the Campbell Hospital suffer great inconvenience for want of proper dietary arrangements?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of seeing that necessary improvement is made so as to ensure every comfort to the patients?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) No reply is necessary.

The Urdu shorthand reporter.

119. Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department aware that public speeches are more frequently delivered now-a-days in the vernacular than in Engslih, and that the vernacular shorthand reporters who are called upon to report them, have to do the double work of deciphering their shorthand notes and translating them into English while the English shorthand reporters have simply to transcribe their notes?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the present permanent Urdu shorthand reporter of this Presidency is the only Urdu shorthand-knowing graduate in India?

(*c*) Is it a fact that he has broken the record of the highest speed previously attained in Urdu shorthand, for which he was awarded an honour certificate in addition to shorthand diploma?

(*d*) Is it a fact that he was granted by the Government a scale of pay which is half of that of the English shorthand reporters?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the scale of pay of the Urdu shorthand reporter is less than that of the Bengali shorthand reporters?

(*f*) Is it a fact that when the Government of Bihar and Orissa advertised for Urdu shorthand reporters on a salary of Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 per month, according to qualifications, the Urdu shorthand reporter of this province applied through the proper channel for the said post, but the local Government refused to forward his application?

(*g*) Is it a fact that the Urdu shorthand reporter submitted a representation to the Government for increment of his pay nearly four months ago, but he has not received any encouraging reply as yet?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) It is the fact that vernacular reporters have to decipher their notes and then to translate them into English.

(*b*) It is not known whether this is so or not.

(*c*) The instructor at the College where this reporter was trained stated that he has attained a speed of 160 words a minute. It is not known whether he was awarded an honour certificate.

(*d*) and (*e*) The pay of the reporters is as follows:—

English, Rs. 200—10—300 a month.

Urdu, Rs. 100—5—150 a month.

It is proposed to appoint Bengali reporters on Rs. 150—10—200 a month. The Urdu reporter was trained at Government expense. He received a scholarship of Rs. 50 a month and his tuition fees, amounting to Rs. 37-8, were paid for a period of about 18 months on the understanding that he would be employed on a pay of Rs. 100—5—150 if he reached the necessary standard of efficiency.

(*f*) The application for employment under the Government of Bihar and Orissa was withheld by the Inspector-General of Police on the ground that as the reporter had been trained at the expense of this Government he should not seek employment elsewhere so soon after his appointment.

(*g*) He submitted a representation for increased pay to the Inspector-General of Police in November, 1920. The question of granting him an *ad-interim* allowance is under consideration.

Schemes of local bodies on primary education and amounts of Government grants thereto.

120. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to make a statement showing the local bodies that submitted schemes of primary education during 1919-21 and the amounts of Government aid granted in each instance?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): In accordance with section 3 of the Bengal Primary Education Act, 1919, the Government of Bengal called for certain statements from the municipalities of Bengal through the Divisional Commissioners. A special officer (Mr. Biss) was appointed to examine the replies and to draw up detailed schemes in consultation with the municipal authorities and local inspecting officers.

The replies received by Government were sent to Mr. Biss, Appendix B gives the names of 27 municipalities that did not submit returns. Of the 88 (*vide* Appendix A), that did reply, three (Santipur, Pabna and Asansol) did not offer complete constructive proposals regarding finance. The statements submitted by most of the remaining municipalities were in need of careful revision and re-statement.

Mr. Biss has already drawn up detailed draft schemes in connection with 35 municipalities, on the basis of free primary education for all

boys of 6 to 10 years of age as a minimum and of a grant of half capital and recurring cost from Government. These schemes have been submitted to the municipalities for their consideration. Of these municipalities two (Rangpur and Chandpur) have already accepted the scheme (as drawn up by Mr. Biss) in full. Two have indefinitely postponed its consideration—Bankura and Dinajpur. Five (*vide* Appendix C) have not yet made any reply on the subject. Fifteen (Appendix D) have expressed their approval of their schemes, but the financial arrangements connected with them are still under discussion, while eleven (Appendix E) have for various reasons not yet been able to come to a conclusion.

Darjeeling has submitted a scheme which is developing and to which Government have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 25,000. A grant of Rs. 6,000 has also been sanctioned to Rangpur municipality.

Only one District Board has put forward a scheme for primary education, namely, Khulna, and Government have sanctioned Rs. 8,000 for carrying out an experiment in organising three unions completely for primary education. In addition to these three unions, 20 union areas (Appendix F) have been worked out by Mr. Biss and the investigation is still proceeding.

Appendices A to F referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 120.

APPENDIX A.

Statement showing the names of municipalities that submitted returns under section 3 of the Bengal Primary Act of 1919.

BURDWAN DIVISION.

Burdwan district.

1. Raniganj
2. Asansol.

Bankura district

3. Bankura.
4. Vishnupur.
5. Sonamukhi.

Hooghly district.

6. Rishra-Konnagar.
7. Arambagh.

PRESIDENCY DIVISION

24-Parganas district

8. North Barrackpore.
9. Khardah.
10. Garulia.
11. Kamarhati.
12. Panihati.
13. Halisahar.
14. Budge Budge.
15. Basirhat.
16. Taki.
17. Barrackpore.
18. Kanchrapara
19. Naihati.

PRESIDENCY DIVISION.

24-Parganas district.

20. Titagarh.
21. Cossipore.
22. Garden Reach.
23. Rajpur.
24. Maniktala.
25. South Suburban.
26. Baranagar.
27. Joynagar.
28. Barasat.
29. Bhatpara.
30. Gobardanga.
31. Tollyganj.
32. South Dum Dum.
33. Baruipur.
34. North Dum Dum.
35. Baduria.

Nadia district.

36. Ranaghat.
37. Santipur.
38. Kushtia.
39. Meherpur.
40. Chakdah.
41. Kumarkhali.
42. Birnagar.
43. Krishnagar
44. Navadwip.

Murshidabad district.

45. Berhampore.
46. Kandi.
47. Dhulian.
48. Azimganj.
49. Murshidabad.
50. Jangipur.

Jessore district.

51. Jessore.
52. Mahespur.
53. Kotchandpur.

Khulna district.

54. Khulna.
55. Satkhira.
56. Debhatta.

DACCA DIVISION.

Dacca district

57. Dacca
58. Narayanganj.

Mymensingh district

59. Mymensingh
60. Muktagacha
61. Jamalpur.
62. Sherpur
63. Kishorganj
64. Bajitpur
65. Netrokona
66. Tangail.

Faridpur district.

67. Faridpur
68. Madaripur

CHITTAGONG DIVISION

Chittagong district

69. Chittagong
70. Cox's Bazar.

Tippera district

71. Comilla
72. Brahmanbaria.
73. Chandpur.

Noakhali district

74. Noakhali

RAJSHAHI DIVISION.

Rajshahi district

75. Rampur-Boalia.
76. Nator.

Jalpaiguri district

77. Jalpaiguri.

Rangpur district.

78. Rangpur.

RAJSHAHI DIVISION.

Pabna district.

79. Pabna.
80. Sirajganj.

Malda district.

81. Old Malda.
82. English Bazar.
83. Nawabganj.

Bogra district.

84. Bogra.
85. Sherpur.

Dinajpur district.

86. Dinajpur.

Darjeeling district.

87. Darjeeling.
88. Kurseong.

APPENDIX B.

Statement showing the names of municipalities that did no submit returns under sections 3 of the Bengal Primar Act of 1919.

BURDWAN DIVISION.

Burdwan district.

1. Burdwan.
2. Kalna.
3. Katwa.
4. Dainhat.

Birbhum district.

5. Suri.

Midnapore district.

6. Midnapore.
7. Tamluk.
8. Ghatal.
9. Chandrakona.
10. Ramjibanpur.
11. Khirpai.
12. Kharar.

Hooghly district.

13. Hooghly-Chinsurah.
14. Serampore.
15. Uttarpara.
16. Baidyabati.
17. Bhadreswar.
18. Champdany.
19. Kotrung.
20. Bansberia.

Howrah district.

21. Howrah.
22. Bally.

DACCA DIVISION

Bakarganj district

23. Barisal.
24. Nalchiti.
25. Jhalakati.
26. Perojpur.
27. Patuakhali.

APPENDIX C.

1. Barrackpore.
2. Rajpur.
3. Chitpur.
4. Faridpur.
5. Chittagong.

APPENDIX D.

1. Titagarh.
2. Garden Reach.
3. Krishnagar.
4. South Suburban.
5. Khulna.
6. Budge Budge.
7. Burdwan.
8. Midnapore.
9. Dacca.
10. Brahmanbaria.
11. Rampur-Boalia
12. Bogra.
13. Jalpaiguri
14. Pabna.
15. Tollyganj.

APPENDIX E.

1. Berhampore.
2. Jessore.
3. Maniktala.
4. Hooghly-Chinsurah
5. Suri.
6. Howrah.
7. Mymensingh
8. Barisal
9. Comilla.
10. Noakhali
11. English Bazar

APPENDIX F.

Dacca district

1. Subhadhya.
2. Zinzira.

Hooghly district

3. Bara.
4. Pearapur.
5. Gopalnagar.
6. Singur.
7. Khalisati-Bighati.
8. Balarambati.
9. Anandanagar.
10. Nasibpur.
11. Rajhat
12. Sugandha.
13. Akna
14. Polba.
15. Gosbain Mahpara
16. Harit.
17. Amman
18. Mahanad

24-Parganas district.

19. Rajibpur
20. Malikbaria.

Sub-registry office at Fakirhat in Khulna.

121. Babu SAILAJA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Is the on'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware at there is a strong popular demand for a sub-registry office at Fakirhat the district of Khulna?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what action, if y, Government contemplate taking in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) In April, 1917, the District Registrar of Khulna recommended ıe opening of an independent sub-registry office at Fakirhat as an ex-ɜrimental measure for one year, but this proposal could not be taken up ır want of funds. Since then no further proposals have been received ther from the public or from the Registrar of Khulna on the subject, ıd no action is contemplated at present.

Want of adequate waterways in parts of Chittagong.

122. Munshi AYUB ALI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge the Department of Irrigation aware that the cultivation of certain able parts of the thanas Hathazari, Raojan and Fatikchari in Chitta-ɔng, is rendered very difficult for the want of a proper drainage system.

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that this is due to the want of adequate number of water-ways across the Hathazari-Roajan Road, e shallowness of the Halda and Karnafuli rivers and to the zig-zag urse of the Halda?

(*c*) What action, if any, are the Government taking to relieve the ɜtress of the people in this regard?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the ɔn'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) and (*b*) Govern-ɜnt have no information.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

Amelioration of the condition of the subordinate educational service.

123. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) ll the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Educa-ı be pleased to state what steps are being taken for the amelioration .he condition of the subordinate educational service officers?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the revised scales of pay of the Indian educational vice and provincial educational service officers have been given effect 'rom 1st December, 1919?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state from what e the scheme for the subordinate educational service will come into ɔe?

(*d*) Is there any truth in the statement that *ad-interim* allowances e been granted to some officers of the subordinate educational service, le the claims of others have not been considered?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to explain the reasons this differential treatment?

(*f*) Are the Government considering the desirability of removing ı anomaly at an early date?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) A committee was appointed, ith Mr. W. C. Wordsworth as its President, to enquire into the matter. s report is now being considered by Government.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Government are not in a position to make any definite pronouncee-ent on the subject.

(*d*) and (*e*) A temporary *ad-interim* allowance was sanctioned from pril, 1920, to all ministerial officers, subject to certain conditions, nding the revision of their pay. Only those members of the subordi-ite educational service, who are clerks and who could satisfy the neces-ry conditions, have been allowed to participate in its benefit. As the mporary allowance was intended exclusively for ministerial officers, was not possible to grant it to members of the subordinate educational rvice as such.

(*f*) In view of the replies to clauses (*a*), (*d*) and (*e*) above, the iestion does not arise.

Births and deaths in Bengali Labour Ward of Eden Hospital.

124. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: Will the on'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Govern-ent be pleased to make a statement showing the number of births and aths of children in the Bengali Labour Ward of the Eden Hospital ring each of the last three years?

The Hon'ble SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: A statement is laid the table.

tement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 124, showing the number of births and deaths of children in the Bengali ward of the Eden Hospital for the period 1918 to 1920.

	1918.	1919.	1920.
Number of births of children ...	638	683	708
Number of deaths of children ...	104	115	136

Professors and lecturers and demonstrators.

125. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) ill the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education pleased to state whether it is a fact that the qualifications, duties d responsibilities of the professors in the provincial educational service d the lecturers and demonstrators in the subordinate educational service e almost identical?

(*b*) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Minister pleased to state whether the Government propose to place the lecturers d demonstrators on an equal footing with the professors?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) and (*b*) The member is ferred to the answer given by Mr. O'Malley in reply to unstarred ques-on No. 5 put to the Bengal Legislative Council on the 12th April, 1920, Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur.

Municipal contribution to Assistant Surgeons' pay in municipal dispensaries.

126. Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) the names of the municipalities in Bengal that are required to pay contribution towards the pay of Government assistant surgeons in charge of municipal dispensaries, with the amount of contribution each is required to pay per annum;

(*ii*) what is the number of beds for indoor patients in each of these dispensaries, and how many in the average remained vacant during the last five years per month;

(*iii*) whether the statement is true that this contribution has proved too heavy a burden on account of the high prices of medicine and diet and that some municipalities have applied for being relieved of the burden; and

(*iv*) whether Government contemplate taking any action in the matter?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*i*) and (*ii*) A statement is laid on the table. Information as to the monthly average of beds which were vacant during the last five years is not in the possession of Government.

(*iii*) Complaints to this effect have been made and some municipalities have asked to be exempted from paying the contribution.

(*iv*) The matter is under consideration and Government are not at present in a position to make a statement.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred questions Nos. 126 (i) and (ii).

Serial No.	Names of Municipalities.	Names of municipal dispensaries in charge of Assistant Surgeon.	Amount of contribution paid for Assistant Surgeon per annum.	Number of beds.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
			Rs.		
1	Midnapore Municipality	King Edward Memorial Hospital.	3,480	81	
2	Berhampore " ...	Berhampore Sadar Hospital.	3,480	94	
3	Murshidabad " ...	Lalbagh Hospital ...	1,568	18	
4	Jangipur " ...	Jangipur " ...	2,526	16	
5	Barisal " ...	Barisal Sadar Hospital ...	3,480	42	
6	Rampur-Boalia " ...	Rampur-Boalia Sadar Hospital.	3,480	44	

Difficulty of primary and middle schools when the District Board stops grants for mismanagement.

127. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware that the primary, middle vernacular and middle English schools fall into great difficulty and awkward position when the District Board stops its grant to those schools for a little mismanagement for want of funds?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I have no information.

Assessment of income-tax in the Bakarganj district.

128. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state the amount of income-tax realised in each subdivision of the district of Bakarganj, during the years 1919 and 1920, year by year, other than those deducted from the salaries of Government officers?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the assessors of income-tax generally take capacity rather than liability of the assessees to pay the tax as a basis of taxation?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether appellate courts make any enquiry about the grounds of exemption or reduction of the income-tax assessed?

(*d*) If so, how and through what agency?

(*e*) Is it a fact that there was a proposal to appoint an advisory committee in each subdivision to help in the proper assessment of income-tax?

(*f*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the stage at which the proposal now is?

(*g*) If no committees have been appointed, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to say whether the Government are considering the desirability of appointing such committees with the subdivisional officer as President and at least one non-official representative from each thana in each subdivision to help in the assessment of income-tax?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR: (*a*) The income-tax realised in each subdivision of the district of Bakarganj in 1919 and 1920 (excluding income-tax deducted from the salaries of Government officers) is noted below:—

	1919.	1920.
	Rs.	Rs.
Sadar	85,484	89,652
Pirojpur	21,348	14,729
Patuakhali	15,297	16,442
Bhola	13,280	13,504

(*b*) No.

(*c*) and (*d*) Yes. Enquiries are made by appellate courts, where necessary. Such enquiries are made by the courts themselves or through the agency of Income-tax Deputy Collectors and Income-tax Assessors.

(*e*) and (*f*) Yes, but the proposal was dropped for the reasons stated in the Government of India resolution, No. 1287 F., dated the 11th August, 1915, a copy of which is placed on the library table.

(*g*) No.

District Judge of Dacca.

129. Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department been drawn to the fact that the District Judge of Dacca—

(*i*) attends court very irregularly; and

(*ii*) is in the habit of imposing fines on the clerks and other ministerial officers, in contravention of the standing order of the Government to the contrary?

(*b*) If the answers to (*i*) and (*ii*) are in the affirmative, what action, if any, are the Government taking in the matter?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: (*a*) and (*b*) Government are not aware of the truth or otherwise of these allegations, but are making enquiry.

Equipment for saline injection in mufassal dispensaries.

130. Babu SAILAJA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that very few of the hospitals and charitable dispensaries in the mufassal have got proper equipment for saline injection in cholera cases?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of directing that adequate arrangement should be made without delay?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) and (*b*) The Sadar hospitals and Government dispensaries are provided with apparatus for saline injections. Government have no information as to how far the dispensaries under local bodies are provided with the necessary apparatus. It is proposed to draw the attention of the dispensary committees, which are the responsible authorities for such dispensaries, to the desirability of providing apparatus.

Muhammadan student for M.A. class in Sanskrit.

131. Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware that the Calcutta University refused to admit into their M.A. class in Sanskrit one

Mr. Abdul Majid, who graduated with honours in Sanskrit from the Presidency College, in 1920, on the ground that he was a Muhammadan?

(*b*) If so, what steps have the Government taken in the matter?

(*c*) If no steps have been taken, are the Government considering the desirability of moving in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) The allegation is being brought to the notice of the Vice-Chancellor and Syndicate.

Conduct of nurses in female wards of Calcutta Medical College Hospital.

132. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to make a statement showing the number of beds in the female wards of the Calcutta Medical College and the number of nurses attached to each ward?

(*b*) What is the total number of nurses in the Calcutta Medical College Hospital and how many of them are Indians?

(*c*) Are the Government aware of a feeling that exists that the ignorance, on the part of European and Anglo-Indian nurses of the language wants, customs and manners of the Indian patients in the female wards often lead to unhappy results, the patients being not unoften neglected, insulted and ill-treated?

(*d*) Is it true that a general notion prevails amongst the nurses and staff of the Eden Hospital that the patients admitted into the Bengali Labour Ward often come from disreputable classes, and that this is often responsible for insults and ill-treatment of respectable patients at the hands of nurses and *dais*?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The number of beds for females is as follows:—

Medical College Hospitals	68
Prince of Wales' Hospital	20
Eden Hospital	105

Each ward has two nurses on day duty, and there is one nurse on night duty for every two wards.

(*b*) The figures are as follows:—

	Total number.	Number of nurses.
Medical College Hospitals ..	82	...
Eden Hospital ...	57	21

(*c*) The answer is in the negative. Government must take strong exception to the insinuation, conveyed under the cover of this question, that the patients are neglected, insulted and ill-treated.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative. There is no differentiation in the treatment of patients, whatever their class may be, and no complaints have been received by the Professor of Midwifery or Sister-in-charge of insults to, or ill-treatment of, patients of any class. In this case also Government consider it necessary to object to the insinuation of insult and ill-treatment which is conveyed by the question.

Loan to the late Nawab of Dacca.

133. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state the balance of the loan given to the late Nawab Sir Khwaja Salimulla of Dacca, and the probable period during which it is likely to be repaid?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The balance of the loan given to the late Nawab Sir Khwaja Salimulla of Dacca amounts to Rs. 8,89,000. It will take 32½ years to repay it in full.

Decrease in milk supply.

134. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to make a statement giving the average price of milk in Calcutta and different district towns of the Presidency for each of the last seven years?

(*b*) Has there been a gradual increase in the supply of milk in these areas commensurate with the increase in population?

(*c*) If not, what are the Government going to do to effect an increase in the supply of milk?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) and (*b*) The information asked for is not available.

(*c*) The Agricultural Department is conducting experiments at the Rangpur Farm to improve the breed of cattle and the Co-operative Department are trying to improve the supply of milk in Calcutta through the agency of Co-operative Milk Societies.

Choked-up waterways or silted-up rivers in Dacca and Mymensingh.

135. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be

leased to state what choked-up waterways or silted-up rivers, in the istricts of Dacca and Mymensingh have been opened up during the st ten years?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of URDWAN: No choked-up waterways or silted-up rivers have been pened up in the districts referred to during the past ten years.

Revision of pay of officers of Jail Department.

136. Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL: (*a*) Will e Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be eased to state whether it is a fact that under the scheme for the revi- on of pay of officers of the Jail Department in Bengal, probationary d sub. *pro tem.* periods of service will not be counted towards incre- ent?

(*b*) Do the probationary and sub. *pro tem.* periods of service count r increment in the case of sub-inspectors of police?

(*c*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of plac- g the officers of the Jail Department on the same footing as sub- spectors of police in this matter?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) The answer is in the affir- ative.

(*b*) No. The matter is under the consideration of Government.

(*c*) This question does not arise.

Medical institutions.

137. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: Will the Hon'ble the Minister charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to ate—

(*i*) how many medical institutions are there in Bengal and in what places are they situated;

(*ii*) how many students are getting education in them at present;

(*iii*) how many students applied for education, how many were admitted, and how many were refused admission in 1920; and

(*iv*) whether there have been previously any communications for the establishment of a medical school in the Chittagong Division?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*i*), (*ii*) and (*iii*) statement is laid on the table.

(*iv*) Yes.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question Nos. 137 (i), (ii) and (iii).

Names of Medical Institutions in Bengal.	Names of places where they are situated.	Number of students on the rolls.	Number of applicants for admission during 1920	Number admitted during 1920.	Number refused admission during 1920
1. Campbell Medical School.	Scaldah (Calcutta) ...	534	753	140	613
2. Dacca Medical School.	Dacca ...	352	335	131	204
3. Carmichael Medical College.	Belgachia (Calcutta)	468	920	100	820
4. Medical College ...	Calcutta ...	1,159	1,021	182	839

Indian Medical Service officers.

138. Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government been drawn to Devolution Rule No. 12, issued by notification, dated Delhi, December 16th, 1920, which states that a local Government shall employ such number of Indian Medical Service officers in such appointments and on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Secretary of State in Council?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what appointments in the Medical, Sanitary and other Departments, respectively, have been specifically reserved in the past for Indian Medical Service officers and which of these appointments are at present held by officers of this service?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased further to state whether the Government have considered the question of the possible reservation of posts other than these for officers of the Indian Medical Service?

(*d*) What are the substantive appointments in Bengal at present open to officers of the Indian Medical Service?

(*e*) Which of these appointments are at present occupied by officers of that service?

(*f*) What is the present cost to Government of the substantive appointments referred to above?

(*g*) What will be the likely increased maximum cost if all the above posts are filled by officers of the Indian Medical Service?

(*h*) In the event of all these appointments being occupied by Indian Medical Service officers, how will the increased cost be met?

(*i*) Is it proposed to employ the full sanctioned strength of Indian Medical Service officers in Bengal as soon as they become available?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A statement (A) is laid on the table.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) and (*e*) A statement (B) is laid on the table.

(*f*) About Rs. 61,000 a month.

(*g*) It is estimated that the additional cost would be about Rs. 80,000 a month if all the Indian Medical Service officers allotted to Bengal, who are now on deputation to the Military Department, returned to civil duty.

(*h*) This is a hypothetical proposition depending on a possible contingency, to which Government are not in a position to reply.

(*i*) If the Government of India place the full staff of Indian Medical Service officers at the disposal of this Government, their services must necessarily be utilized.

Statement (A) referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 138 (b), showing the appointments exclusively reserved for I. M. S. Officers in this Presidency and those now held by I.M.S. Officers.

Serial.		No. of appointments.	
	Medical Department.		
1.	Surgeon-General, Bengal ...	1	At present held by an I. M. S. officer.
2	Personal Assistant to Surgeon-General	1	
3.	Principal, Medical College, Calcutta ...	1	At present held by an I. M. S. officer.
4.	Professors, Medical College, Calcutta	7	Six at present held by I. M. S. officers.
5.	Superintendent, Campbell Medical School.	1	At present held by I. M. S. officers.
6	Surgeon Superintendent, Presidency General Hospital.	1	
7.	Resident Medical Officers, Medical College Hospitals.	3	
8.	Resident Surgeons, Presidency General Hospitals.	2	
9	Police Surgeon, Calcutta	1	
10.	Civil Surgeons	16	Nine appointments at present held by I. M. S. officers.
	Jail Department.		
11	Inspector-General of Prisons, Bengal	1	At present held by an I. M. S. officer.
12.	Superintendents of Central Jails ...	4	One appointment is at present held by an I. M. S. officer.
	Sanitary Department.		
	Nil	...	
	Total ...	39	

Statement (B) referred to in the reply to unstarred question Nos. 138 (d) and (e), showing the substantive appointments in Bengal at present open to I. M. S. Officers and those now held by I. M. S. Officers.

	Sanctioned appointments for I. M. S. Officers.	Whether held by I. M. S. Officers.	Remarks.
	Medical Department.		
1.	Surgeon-General, Bengal ...	Yes.	
2.	Personal Assistant to Surgeon-General.	No.	
3.	Principal, Medical College, Calcutta	Yes.	
4.	Professor of Clinical Medicine and Materia Medica, Medical College.		
5.	Professor of Surgery, Medical College.		
6.	Professor of Clinical and Operative Surgery, Medical College.		
7.	Professor of Midwifery, Medical College.		
8.	Professor of Ophthalmic Surgery, Medical College.		
9.	Professor of Chemistry, Medical College, and Chemical Examiner.	No.	
10.	Professor of Pathology, Medical College.	Yes.	
11.	Professor of Physiology, Medical College.	No.	Only temporary employ to Major Shorten on leave.
12.	Resident Medical Officer, Medical College Hospital.	Yes.	
13.	Ditto ditto.		
14.	Ditto ditto.		
15.	Surgeon Superintendent, Presidency General Hospital.		
16.	First Resident Surgeon, Presidency General Hospital.		
17.	Second Resident Surgeon, Presidency General Hospital.		
18.	Superintendent, Campbell Medical School and Hospital.	Yes.	
19.	Superintendent, Central Lunatic Asylum, Berhampore.		
20.	Police Surgeon, Calcutta ...		
21.	Surgeon to His Excellency the Governor.	No.	
22—38.	Civil Surgeons	Nine Civil Surgeoncies are at present held by I. M. S. Officers.	
39—42.	Director and Professor of the School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.	No.	
	Jail Department.		
1.	Inspector-General of Prisons, Bengal.	Yes.	
2.	Superintendent, Presidency Jails, Alipore.	No.	
3.	Superintendent, Central Jail, Alipore.		
4.	Superintendent, Central Jail, Midnapore.		
5.	Superintendent, Central Jail, Dacca	Yes	

Sanitary Department.

1. Director of Public Health, Bengal 2—4. Deputy Directors of Public Health	No

Revenue Department.

1. Superintendent, Royal Botanic Garden, Sibpur.	Yes.

Civil Assistant Surgeons and Military Medical Assistants in the Calcutta Medical College.

139. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to supply the following information:—

(*i*) what are the differences in preliminary qualifications, period of study, final test and prospects between the Civil Assistant Surgeons and the Military Medical Assistants as trained in the Calcutta Medical College; and

(*ii*) what are the posts under the Bengal Government at present occupied by the Military Medical Assistants and with what emoluments?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*i*) and (*ii*) Two statements (A) and (B) are laid on the table.

Statement (A) referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 139, showing the preliminary qualifications, period of study, final test and prospects of Civil Assistant Surgeons and Military Assistant Surgeons.

	Civil Assistant Surgeons.	Military Assistant Surgeons
1. Minimum preliminary qualification.	I. Sc. Pass certificate of the University.	The Intermediate Examination in Arts or Science of a recognised University or the Cambridge Senior Local Examination, Old Standard, according to revised regulation for 1917
2. Period of study	Six years ...	Five years.
3. Final test ...	M.B. (degree of the Calcutta University).	Membership, State Medical Faculty, Bengal, for Military pupils, Medical College, Calcutta
4. Prospects ...	*Vide* Government Resolution No. 2326-Medl., dated the 22nd December 1920. (Copy laid on the table.)	Army Instruction (India) No. 544 of 1920. (Copy laid on the table.)

Resolution referred to in the Statement A mentioned in the reply to unstarred question No. 139.

No. 2316-Medl., dated Calcutta, the 21st December 1920.

RESOLUTION by—A. MARR, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department.

THE recommendations of the Public Services Commission and of the Medical Services Committee on the subject of the pay of Civil Assistant Surgeons have for some time past been under the consideration of the Government of India and of the local Governments. The sanction of the Secretary of State for India to a revision of the pay of these officers has now been received and the local Government has been authorised to fix new scales, subject to the limits sanctioned by the Secretary of State. After careful consideration, the Governor in Council has decided to adopt the following revised scales of pay. The existing scales are also shown for purposes of comparison :—

CIVIL ASSISTANT SURGEONS.

EXISTING SCALES.

Year of service.	Pay per mensem.
	Rs.
1st year	100
2nd ,, ...	100
3rd ,, ...	110
4th ,, ...	120
5th ,, ...	130
6th ,, ...	140
7th ,, ...	150
8th ,, ...	160
9th ,, ...	170
10th ,, ...	180
11th ,, ...	190
12th ,, ...	200
13th ,, ...	210
14th ,, ...	220
15th ,, ...	230
16th ,, ...	240
17th ,, ...	250
18th ,, ...	260
19th ,, ...	270
20th ,, ...	280
21st ,, ...	290
22nd ,, and over ...	300
Senior Grade.	
2nd class	325
1st ,, ...	350

NEW SCALES NOW SANCTIONED.

Period of probation Rs. 150 per mensem.

Year of service.	Pay per mensem.
	Rs.
1st year (on confirmation) ...	200
2nd ,, ...	200
3rd ,, ...	225
4th ,, ...	225
5th ,, ...	250
6th ,, ...	250
7th ,, ...	275
Efficiency Bar.	
8th year	275
9th ,, ...	300
10th ,, ...	300
11th ,, ...	325
12th ,, ...	325
13th ,, ...	350
14th ,, ...	350
Efficiency Bar.	
15th year	375
16th ,, ...	375
17th ,, ...	400
18th ,, ...	400
19th ,, ...	425
20th ,, ...	425
21st ,, and over ...	450

CIVIL ASSISTANT SURGEONS APPOINTED TO BE CIVIL SURGEONS.

Year of service.	Pay per mensem.	Year of service.	Pay per mensem.
	Rs		Rs.
1st year	400	1st year	500
2nd "	440	2nd "	550
3rd "	480	3rd "	600
4th "	520	4th "	650
5th "	560	5th "	700
6th "	600	6th "	750
		7th "	800
		8th "	850
		9th " and over ...	900
		Selection grade for Assistant Surgeons appointed to be Civil Surgeons	1,000

Until further orders, the passing of departmental examinations after 7 and 14 years of service will continue, as at present, to be a condition precedent to the drawing of further increments

2 Temporary Civil Assistant Surgeons will in future draw the same pay, *viz.*, Rs. 150 per mensem as probationers. The pay of Assistant Surgeons appointed to officiate as Civil Surgeons will continue to be regulated by article 142 of the Civil Service Regulations as at present. The selection grade is limited to 25 per cent of Civil Surgeoncies reserved for Military and Civil Assistant Surgeons taken together There being 12 Civil Surgeoncies at present available in this Presidency for both these classes of officers, there will be three posts in the selection grade, one of which will be reserved for Military Assistant Surgeons and two for Civil Assistant Surgeons

3 The officers at present in service will be permitted to count the whole of their service towards the new time-scale, and the various allowances at present drawn by them in addition to their grade pay will continue to be drawn by them in addition to the new scale of pay

4 These orders will have effect from 3rd September 1920

5 Contributions are at present realised from local bodies for the services of Assistant Surgeons lent to them at the rate of Rs. 290 per mensem in the case of local fund dispensaries to which Assistant Surgeons were lent before the 1st August 1913, and at the rate of Rs 280 per mensem in other cases In consequence of the increase of pay of Assistant Surgeons now sanctioned, these rates will require revision Orders on the subject will be issued separately.

Army Instruction referred to in the statement A mentioned in the reply to unstarred question No. 139.

Army Instruction (India) No. 544, dated Simla, the 27th July 1920

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544. Increased rates of pay for Assistant Surgeons of the Indian Medical Department.

With the approval of the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India the Government of India have decided that the pay of Assistant Surgeons of the Indian Medical Department shall, with effect from the 1st April 1920, be revised as detailed below —The revised rates are purely temporary and provisional pending a decision

on the future of the Department. The new rates have been granted in consideration amongst other things, of the present high cost of living and will be subject to revision on this account also, either upwards or downwards, to an extent not exceeding 20 per cent according as the cost of living rises or falls. The first revision will take place after an interval of five years and subsequent revisions will be undertaken at such intervals as circumstances may determine :—

	Consolidated. Rs.
Senior Assistant Surgeon with the rank of Major	... 700 per mensem.
Ditto ditto ditto Captain	... 650 " "
Ditto ditto ditto Lieutenant	... 500 " "
Assistant Surgeon, 1st class, of over 20 years' service	... 450* " "
Ditto 1st ditto 20 ditto	... 400 " "
Ditto 2nd ditto 20 ditto	... 350 " "
Ditto 3rd ditto 20 ditto	... 275 " "
Ditto 4th ditto 20 ditto	... 200 " "

* This rate will only apply to those Assistant Surgeons who entered the service before March 1908

2. Charge allowances as admissible under Army Regulations, India, Volume I, paragraph 398 (*b*), will be drawn is addition to the new rates of pay

3. Lodging, fuel and light allowances, granted to the families of officers during the war, will cease with effect from the date of this Instruction

4. The army of Occupation bonus is not admissible concurrently with these new rates of pay which will not carry any claim to exchange compensation allowance

5. Until further orders, leave allowances will be regulated according to existing rules (Army Regulations, India, Volume I, paragraph 435). The allowance for leave in India will be calculated on the existing rates of grade pay, and not to the increased rates now sanctioned.

6. With the introduction of the new rates of pay the concession† of free quarters will be restricted to those Military Assistant Surgeons in military employment whose duties require them to live in particular quarters in order to be near their work

7. The Government of India reserve to themselves the right to withdraw or modify the present concession under which salaries not exceeding Rs 500 per mensem are exempt from Indian income-tax.

A. H. BINGLEY, Major-General,
Secretary to the Government of India,
Army Department

† Army Regulations, India, Volume II, paragraph 443.

Statement B referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 139 showing the posts at present held by Military Assistant Surgeons under the Government of Bengal and their emoluments.

Posts.	Emoluments.
1. Assistant to Superintendent, Medical College Hospital.	Grade pay *plus* staff allowance of Rs. 100—200.
2. Senior Demonstrator of Practical Pharmacy, Medical College Hospital.	Grade pay *plus* staff allowance of Rs. 75—175.
3. Junior Demonstrator of Practical Pharmacy, Medical College Hospital.	Grade pay *plus* staff allowance of Rs. 50—150.
4. Assistant to Surgeon Superintendent, Presidency General Hospital.	Grade pay *plus* staff allowance of Rs. 100—200.

	Posts.	Emoluments
5.	House Surgeon, Presidency General Hospital.	Grade pay *plus* staff allowance of Rs. 50—150
6.	Ditto ditto	
7.	Ditto ditto	
8.	Ditto ditto	
9.	Deputy Superintendent, Berhampore Lunatic Asylum.	Grade pay *plus* staff allowance of Rs. 150
10.	Deputy Superintendent, Campbell Medical School and Hospital.	Grade pay *plus* staff allowance of Rs. 100—200.
11.	House Surgeon, Howrah General Hospital.	Rs. 300.
12.	Deputy Superintendent, Mitford Hospital, Dacca.	Grade pay *plus* staff allowance of Rs. 100—200
13.	Superintendent, Albert Victor Leper Asylum, Gobra.	Grade pay *plus* staff allowance of Rs. 100—200.
14.	Assistant Health Officer, Port of Calcutta.	Rs. 300.
15.	Superintendent and Medical Officer, Juvenile Jail, Alipore.	Grade pay *plus* allowance of Rs. 200.
16.	Assistant Superintendent of Emigration, Goalundo.	Grade pay *plus* staff allowance of Rs. 30.
17.	Certifying Surgeon of Factories, Barrackpore.	Rs. 600—20—800
18.	Medical Officer in charge of His Excellency the Governor's Staff Dispensaries.	Grade pay *plus* staff allowance of Rs 50 and Rs 30
19.	Police Training College, Sarda, Rajshahi.	Grade pay *plus* staff allowance of Rs 75.
20 to 24.	Civil Surgeons (5)	Rs 350—700 *plus* jail allowance of Rs. 75—100
25.	Assistant Director of the School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and Resident Medical Officer, Carmichael Hospital, Calcutta.	Rs. 350—700 *plus* staff allowance of Rs 200.
26.	Medical Officer, Eastern Bengal Railway, Sealdah.	Grade pay.
27.	Medical Officer, Eastern Bengal Railway, Kanchrapara.	
28.	Medical Officer, Eastern Bengal Railway, Sara.	
29.	Medical Officer, Eastern Bengal Railway, Saidpur.	
30.	Medical Officer, Eastern Bengal Railway, Paksey.	
31.	Medical Officer, Eastern Bengal Railway, Katihar.	

Industrial and technical institutions.

140. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing a list of all the industrial and technical institutions in Bengal, under the following heads:—

(*a*) Controlled and financed by Government—

(*i*) total number of institutions; and

(*ii*) number of institutions intended mainly for particular communities—with the names of the communities;

(*b*) Aided by Government—

(*i*) total number of institutions; and

(*ii*) number of institutions intended mainly for particular communities—with the names of the communities; and

(*iii*) number of institutions under the management of Christian mission bodies;

(*c*) Managed entirely by private enterprise—

(*i*) total number of institutions; and

(*ii*) number of institutions intended mainly for particular communities—with the names of the communities?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) (*i*) Twenty-three.

(*ii*) One intended for European and Eurasian girls.

(*b*) (*i*) Thirty-nine.

(*ii*) Ten institutions intended mainly for Christians and one for Muhammadans.

(*iii*) Twenty-five.

(*c*) (*i*) Thirty.

(*ii*) One for Muhammadans.
One for Jains.

Want of drinking water at Chikandi.

141. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a great dearth of good drinking water at Chikandi in the Faridpur district?

(*b*) What steps are the Government taking to remove the want?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) It is reported that there is a dearth of good drinking water owing to the river having silted up and to the fact that a tank excavated by the District Board has not been a complete success in consequence of the sandy soil.

(*b*) This is a matter for the District Board of Faridpur. The Chairman reports that steps are being taken to have a masonry well sunk in the locality.

Technological Institute in Calcutta.

142. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries aware that the United Provinces has got an up-to-date Technological College of its own at Cawnpur?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state when the proposed Calcutta Technological Institute will be an accomplished fact?

(*c*) What will be the scope of the proposed institution?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the higher branches of technology will not find place in its programme of work?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Yes, Cawnpur has got a Technological College but it cannot yet be called and up to-date College. So far as is known the College is at present primarily a research institute.

(*b*) The member is referred to the answer given to the unstarred question No. 6 asked by him at the meeting of the Council held on the 28th February last.

(*c*) The school will be organised primarily for giving theoretical training to the apprentices employed in the large industrial workshops in and round Calcutta.

(*d*) Yes, the higher branches of technology will not find a place in its programme of work at present, but in the selection of its site, in the design of the buildings and also in the constitution of the management of the school, allowance has been made for its gradual expansion into a fully-equipped technological institute

Scholarship for technical training in foreign countries.

143. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether it is the intention to award from Bengal only one Government scholarship for an Anglo-Indian and another for an Indian student for technical training in foreign countries?

(*b*) Are the Government contemplating increasing the number of these technical scholarships?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Under the existing rules State technical scholarships are open to any one who is a statutory native of India, including both Indians and domiciled Anglo-Indians. Nothing is laid down with regard to the distribution of these scholarships as between Indians and Anglo-Indians. The total number of scholarships that may at present be held by candidates from Bengal is four, and each scholarship is tenable for three years or more. As soon as one of the scholarships becomes vacant, necessary steps are taken to select another candidate. The selection rests in the first instance with the Board of Selection appointed for the purpose.

(*b*) No increase in the number of these technical scholarships is at present contemplated.

Ferry-service on the Ganges between Malda and Murshidabad districts.

144. Rai Sahib NILMANI GHATAK: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the portion of the river Ganges lying between the districts of Malda and Murshidabad is a Government estate bearing a tauzi number; and

(*ii*) whether any private party is allowed to ply any ferry service on this portion of the Ganges not as a lessee but for his personal profit as owner?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement of the current year's income from each of the ferries maintained by the Government on that portion of the Ganges and state how the income is credited in the Collectorate?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) (*i*) A portion of the river Ganges lying between the districts of Malda and Murshidabad is a Government fishery estate bearing tauzi No. 557 of the Malda Collectorate. No such estate exists in the district of Murshidabad.

(*ii*) Permission has not been given by the Collector of Malda to any private person to maintain a ferry service over that portion of the Ganges

(*b*) There are no ferries maintained by Government on the portion of the Ganges referred to.

Telegraph and Railway connection between Nawabganj and English Bazar towns.

145. Rai Sahib NILMANI GHATAK: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of the Government to connect Nawabganj in the district of Malda with the headquarters of that district by—

(*1*) telegraph, and

(*2*) railway

lines? If so, when?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*1*) The proposal to open a combined post and telegraph office at Nawabganj had to be dropped, as the inhabitants of the place failed to furnish the necessary security by the execution of a guarantee bond required by the Telegraph Department against any loss that might be incurred on account of the working of that office.

(*2*) The construction of a railway of the nature referred to in the question is a subject which should be initiated by the Government of India

(Railway Board). In reply to an enquiry the Railway Board have informed this Government that, after investigation, they are of opinion that the prospects of traffic do not warrant the proposal for railway extension to Nawabganj being proceeded with.

Summary procedure for recovering arrear rent.

146. Rai Sahib NILMANI CHATAK: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the names of the landlords in the different districts of the Presidency in whose zamindaries the summary procedure for the recovery of rent under section 158A of Chapter XIII-A of the Bengal Tenancy Act has been introduced with dates; and

(*ii*) the number of certificates annually issued in each case up to the end of February, 1921?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: A statement is placed on the table relating to part (*i*) of the question. The information required in part (*ii*) of the question will be obtained and supplied later.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 146.

Name of landlord.	Date of introduction into his estate of summary procedure for recovery of rent
(*i*)	
(*a*) Itisham-ul-mulk, Rais-ud-daula, Amir-ul-Omra Nawab Sir Asif Qudr Saiyid Wasif Ali Mirza Khan Bahadur Mahabat Jang, K.C.V.O., Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad.	1st October, 1917.
(*b*) Mathurapur Zamindari Company, Limited · Managing Agents, Messrs. H V Low & Co., Ltd.	27th February, 1920.
(*c*) Srimati Ananda Kumari Devi, Proprietor, four-anna share of the Bhowal Estate, Dacca.	7th April, 1920.

Excise Superintendents and Inspectors.

147. Mr. S. R. DAS: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state:—

(*i*) whether the qualifications required for direct recruitment of Excise Inspectors are exactly the same as those required for direct recruitment of Excise Superintendents;

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that Excise Superintendents and Inspectors belong to the supervising staff of the Excise Department;

(*iii*) in what respects, if any, are their duties different:

(*iv*) whether in recruiting a Superintendent and an Inspector any principle is followed in differentiating between their qualifications, and, if so, what is that principle;

(*v*) how many direct appointments of Excise Superintendents have been made during the last five years and how many by way of promotion from the rank of Excise Inspector, giving the figures for each year separately;

(*vi*) whether there is any fixed proportion for recruitment direct as Excise Superintendents and by way of promotion from the rank of Excise Inspector;

(*vii*) how many Inspectors of Excise are now officiating as Excise Superintendents and for how many years have each of such Inspectors been officiating as such;

(*viii*) whether any of them have the qualifications now required for recruitment either as Inspectors or as Superintendents;

(*ix*) how many graduates have been recruited as Sub-Inspectors;

(*x*) how many direct appointments as Inspectors have been made during the last five years and how many by way of promotion from the rank of Excise Inspector;

(*xi*) whether it is the policy of the Government to encourage promotions from Sub-Inspectors to Inspectors and from Inspectors to Superintendents?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*i*) Yes. The minimum qualifications are the same.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) The Superintendent of Excise is the chief executive Excise officer in the district and is directly responsible for every branch of the Excise administration, whereas the primary duty of an Inspector of Excise employed on executive work is to assist the Superintendent of Excise in the training and supervision of Sub-Inspectors and other subordinate executive officers. For full details of the duties the member is referred to paragraphs 110 and 112 of the Excise Manual, Volume II, as well as pages xxxi—xxxiv of the Index to this volume of the Manual

(*iv*) No particular principle is followed. Full consideration is given to all the qualifications of the candidates.

(*v*) Nine Superintendents of Excise have been recruited direct during the last five years, viz., one in 1917, five in 1918 and three in 1920 Four Inspectors of Excise have been promoted to the rank of Superintendent during the same period, viz., one in 1917, two in 1918 and one in 1919.

(*vi*) No

(*vii*) Eight Inspectors of Excise are now officiating as Superintendents of Excise, with effect from the dates shown against their names below:—

(1) Babu Kshetra Mohan Bose, from 15th September, 1918.
(2) Mr. A. E. Smith, from 24th September, 1918.
(3) Babu Probodh Chandra Sen, from 10th August, 1918
(4) Babu Banikanta Mukherjee, from 22nd August, 1917.
(5) Babu Srish Charan Roy, from 23rd February, 1918.
(6) Mr. M. R. Cox, from 6th July, 1920.
(7) Maulvi Shafiquar Rahman Siddique, from 18th January, 1921.
(8) Mr. C. W. Craven, from 18th February, 1921.

(*viii*) None of them have the qualifications at present required, as they are senior Inspectors recruited under the old rules.

(*ix*) Nineteen graduates have been recruited as Sub-Inspectors of Excise since the new recruitment rules came into force.

(*x*) Twenty-five Inspectors of Excise have been appointed direct during the last five years and sixteen Sub-Inspectors have been promoted to the rank of Inspector during the same period.

(*xi*) Yes. Officers of outstanding merit have been promoted and it is intended to continue the policy.

Supply of milk for the benefit of child population in towns.

148. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken by the Government for the supply of pure and cheap milk for the benefit of the child population in town areas?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: Government are not directly responsible for the supply of pure milk at a cheap rate to municipal areas. The attention of the member is, however, invited to section 6 of the Bengal Food Adulteration Act, 1919, which provides *inter alia* for the supply of pure milk. It is also proposed to incorporate provisions regarding milk supply in the Calcutta Municipal Amendment Bill and to consult local bodies outside Calcutta as to the desirability of legislation on the subject.

Duties and allotment of Agricultural officers.

149. Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state:—

(*i*) what are the duties of District Agricultural Officers;
(*ii*) whether every district in Bengal is provided with one such officer;

(*iii*) the material improvement effected in Bakarganj by the officer in charge of the Department;

(*iv*) the amount drawn as travelling allowance during the period in which the improvement has been effected; and

(*v*) the steps taken for the improvement of agriculture in the agricultural subdivision of Bhola?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*i*) The member is referred to the reply given to unstarred question No. 98 asked by Maulvi Fazlal Karim.

(*ii*) The member is referred to the reply given to unstarred question No. 64 asked by Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri.

(*iii*) The chief items of improvement are:—

(*1*) Distribution of improved seeds of rice and jute raised by the experts.—In most places *Indrasail* and *Kataktara* paddies have proved their superiority over the local varieties. The present area under the former is reported to be over 12,000 acres. The superiority of the *Kakya Bombai* jute over the local varieties has been established and the area under this crop is now said to be over 13,000 acres. The demands for improved rice and jute seeds are still very heavy and the areas under them are steadily increasing.

(*2*) Introduction of new crops.—The cultivation of potato has been established in many parts of the district. The introduction of the improved variety of sugar-cane is progressing gradually. Rangpur tobacco has been introduced in places. Ground-nut is also being tried with success.

(*3*) Formation of agricultural associations.—Several agricultural associations have been started, and endeavours are now being made to start seed farms through the members.

(*iv*) The amount drawn as travelling allowance by the District Agricultural Officer, Bakarganj, from the date of his appointment in 1915 till 1920 is as follows:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
1915	553	6	3
1916	722	15	6
1917	923	3	6
1918	1,207	12	3
1919	1,035	3	3
1920	961	4	6
Total ...	5,403	13	3

(*v*) In the Bhola subdivision the agricultural work was first taken up in 1916-17. The following crops have been introduced with success:—Potato, *Indrasail* and *Kataktara* paddies, *Kakya Bombai* jute, Tanna sugarcane and tobacco. Small demonstration gardens have been established in places by the Government khas mahal. Several agricultural associations have been started at Daulatpur and an endeavour is being made to extend their number.

Number of Muhammadan munsifs.

150. Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any attempt is being made to raise the number of Muhammadan munsifs to a third of the total strength; and

(*ii*) whether it is the intention of Government to give the few new appointments for which provision has been made in the Budget to Muhammadans?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*i*) The Government have accepted the principle of communal representation in the services. Under the provisions of the Bengal, Agra and Assam Civil Courts Act, 1887, the local Government are bound to appoint as munsifs persons nominated by the High Court, and the High Court has been addressed on the need for representation of the different communities in the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial). It is hoped that a definite scheme will be formulated before long.

(*ii*) There will be no fresh recruitment for the new appointments referred to, when sanctioned by the Secretary of State, as these appointments will be absorbed by officiating munsifs.

Increase of fares on inland steam service.

151. Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Marine Department aware that the Rivers Steam Navigation and India General Navigation and Railway Companies are always increasing fares on all the services on which they have a monopoly, and that this has caused great hardship and inconvenience to the travelling public?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking such action as they deem fit to put a stop to this practice?

MEMBER in charge of MARINE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): (*a*) Government are informed that the Rivers Steam Navigation Company, Limited, and the India General Navigation and Railway Company, Limited, increased intermediate and third class fares on all steamer services by 10 per cent. on 1st August, 1916, and

again on 1st January, 1921. In addition, third class fares were increased by 10 per cent. in 1919 on three sections, viz., Khulna to Hulerhat, Sobipur to Narayanganj, and Narayanganj to Goalundo. The Companies state that these enhancements were made in every case to assist in meeting the increasing cost of maintaining and working their services. Government are not aware that these increases have caused great hardship and inconvenience to the travelling public.

(*b*) In the circumstances Government do not consider that any action is required.

Amount of rent realised by zamindars from tenants.

152. Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the figures in the answer to question No. 14 (*c*) (unstarred) of the 28th February, 1921, are calculated on the amount of cesses, which includes calculations made on rent-free holdings?

(*b*) In that case is it not a fact that the actual amount of rents realised is far less than what is given in the answer?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) To obtain an exact figure of the amount of rent realised by zamindars, the figure calculated for the levying of cess on rent-free holdings should be deducted. It is not possible to state this figure

Cesses and "abwabs" realized from tenants of the Dacca Nawab estates.

153. Mr. S. M. BOSE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Deparment of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that cesses or *abwabs*, under the name of *taharir*, *mamuli*, *britti*, *gramkharach*, *nazzar*, etc.,are realised from the tenants of the Dacca Nawab family estates which are being managed by the Court of wards?

(*b*) If so, under whose orders were or are such cesses collected?

(*c*) What is the total amount of such cesses realized in 1326 and 1327 B.S.?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of passing immediate orders for the cessation of the levy of these cesses and also for their refund?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to say whether it is a fact that permission to the tenants to dig tanks in the Dacca Nawab

family estates is not given by the manager without the payment of a *salami*?

(*f*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of passing orders for stopping such levy of *salami*?

(*g*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the administration by the Court of Wards of the Dacca Nawab family estates has given rise to considerable dissatisfaction and unrest among the tenants?

(*h*) If so, what steps are being taken to allay such dissatisfaction and unrest?

(*i*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether there are any, and, if so, how many, dismissed Government servants, employed in responsible positions by the Court of Wards for the Dacca Nawab family estates?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) *Taharir* and *mamuli* are realized. *Nazzar* is also realized, but this is not a cess or *abwab*.

(*b*) There are no orders on the subject.

(*c*) The exact amount is not known.

(*d*) A general enquiry on the subject will in due course be made by the Board of Revenue.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) The Government are not prepared to consider the matter without due enquiry as to the general custom on the subject. The Board of Revenue will be asked to enquire.

(*g*) No.

(*h*) The question does not arise.

(*i*) Yes; one. A dismissed sub-inspector of police is employed. A reference was made to the Inspector-General of Police before he was employed.

Standing Committees.

The PRESIDENT: I wish to inform the Council that His Excellency the Governor has approved of the Standing Committees as elected by the Council.

Resolutions.

(under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest).

Technological Institute in Calcutta.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Order! The debate on the resolution on the establishment of a Technological Institute in Calcutta will be resumed.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I should like to make a few preliminary observations of a general character on the resolutions that have been moved. A few weeks ago a resolution was passed by this Council on

vocational training, and that resolution is engaging the serious atte tion of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Education. Here we ha three cognate resolutions on a technological college or institute. little later on we have two resolutions, Nos. 10 and 36, about the esta lishment of an agricultural school in every Division in Bengal. A litt further on, in No. 39, we have a resolution that an industrial scho with a workshop attached to it be established and maintaine at the industrial centre of every division of Bengal. Furth on, in resolution No. 46, there is a proposal that a commerci school with a museum of commercial products attached to it be estal lished and maintained at the commercial centre of every Division i Bengal, and then in the very last resolution—resolution No. 48—the is a further proposal that a commercial college be established in Ca cutta as early as practicable on the lines of the Bombay Sydenha College of Commerce. I wonder whether any useful or really pract cal purpose will be served if resolutions of such a far-reaching chaacte are going to be discussed in this Council in an isolated and disconnecte fashion. What we need is an inter-related and well-adjusted compre hensive scheme. We have three well-demarcated stages—the primar stage, the secondary stage and the higher stage. It is of utmost import ance to know how far technological, agricultural, industrial and com mercial education can be related to the various stages. I shall simpl quote only one line from page 186 of volume 3 of Part I of the Univer sity Commission's report. The opinion of Mr. E. F. Tipple, Professo of Roorkee College, runs thus:—

In India much confusion has existed between high and low grade technical education, and it is only now being realised administratively that the high grad must be reared on foundations laid in the secondary schools.

The Commission then proceeds:—

We endorse Mr. Tipple's view in this matter.

And the same proposition has been endorsed by the great education ist. Dr. Brajendra Nath Seal. So far as the present resolutions are concerned three distinct issues have been raised: first, should the institution be affiliated to the University, *i.e.*, should courses be pro vided and recognised by the University? The University Commis sion's report is distinctly in favour of this. I shall be satisfied b quoting only one or two passages. The Commission says:—

The weight of our evidence is in favour of the University providing and recognising courses of instruction and facilities for research in connection with applied science and technology.

Sir Nilratan Sircar, the late Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta Uni versity and one who may be regarded as an authority on the subject says:—

Under the present conditions it is desirable for the University to organise education in applied science and technology at least two standards, viz. a high standard for degrees and a somewhat lower one for licenses or diplomas.

A little later on Mr. Alfred Hay of the Tata Institute, Bangalore, is of opinion that applied science and technology should form an important part of the scheme of any modern university and that degrees and diplomas should be granted in these subjects. I need not quote any further: passage after passage there is in this report confirming this view.

The second issue that has been raised by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta is whether degrees should be awarded or not. In this connection the Commission says:—

It is essential that, before any new degree or certificate is authorised in technological subjects, the organisation of effective teaching including practical work, should be assured . In our Judgment it would be premature to sanction them until the University has either itself made provision for the teaching and laboratory equipment required or is satisfied that students wishing to take these courses will be able to find in other institutions the scientific and practical training indispensable for the purpose. . . . But precipitancy in awarding degrees or licenses in technological subjects to students whose scientific and practical training might be inadequate for the purpose in view would have the unhappy result of disappointing expectations in these branches of study. We suggest, therefore, that the Government of India should express its approval of the addition of these technological subjects to the courses recognised by the University of Calcutta, but should withhold its assent to the draft regulations for degrees and licenses until the provision for the necessary teaching and laboratory accommodation is guaranteed. A further reason which weighs with us in support of this recommendation is our anxiety that the work done in the intermediate classes should be very materially improved before the University ventures upon the practical execution of its plan for the encouragement of these branches of the technological training.

So it goes on confirming the view. There is that reservation about conferring degrees immediately without previous laboratory and workshop training.

The third issue that has been raised is—should the matter once more be referred to the Director of Industries and his Advisory Board? We are getting a bit tired of committees and commissions. Two such big commissions as the Industrial Commission and the University Commission have gone into the matter in minute details, considering the whole subject in all its bearings, and I myself do not see that any useful purpose will be served by relegating the matter once more to a committee. What we really need is a thoroughly well-considered practical scheme and to launch into the matter as soon as possible.

Sir ASHUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I have much pleasure in supporting this resolution. There is no doubt that the country wants vocational education, and this resolution aims at giving scientific training for the purpose of enabling our young men to earn their livelihood. When we first talked about a technological institution in Calcutta, at the time when the question of the Victoria Memorial was being discussed we approached the Government and made our representations. Lord Curzon told us that it was an impossibility having regard to the resources available and he also doubted the efficacy of an institution of that character. Those days are gone. We want it—the country wants it very

badly—and I hae not the least hesitation in supporting this resolution. I do not think it requires a speech.

With regard to the degree question, all I have to say is this. I think the Calcutta University will be prepared to add these technological classes and see to the subjects being introduced and provision being made for the training of our young men.

As regards the granting of degrees, so far as the Calcutta University is concerned, I do not see any reason why degrees should not be granted. But that is a question which may be discussed later on, but what is needed at present is that education must be given in technological subjects.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MAITRA: I rise to support the resolution so ably moved by Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder Ghose. It is a known fact that the majority of our students are in great need of new avenues of education to enable them to earn their living. The departments of Law, Medicine and Engineering are already congested and therefore an effort must be made, as early as possible, to provide education in technology and other cognate subjects not only for the benefit of students of average merit, but also for those who want higher training in those subjects. We owe it to ourselves the duty of saving thousands of our qualified countrymen from chronic starvation and the miseries that follow in its train, and this is only possible if we provide them with the means to combat them. Those who have seen the Tata Iron Works (so close to Calcutta) will realise how many men of all shades of education and intelligence can be provided with their bread if we only open similar avenues throughout the province, and it will be in the fitness of things if Government take the initiative in this direction by creating Colleges in Technology and Agriculture, and I am sure public benefactions will immediately follow to supplement Government grants and resources.

Now one word to Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta. He wants an agricultural college at Dacca and not at Calcutta. I personally belong to the Dacca Division and I shall be glad if Dacca be allowed this proud position. But before quarrelling about the site of the agricultural college, will it not be proper for us to carry the resolution now and settle about the details later? His second point is that he is not very keen about university degrees. Will my friend tell me that he really believes in what he says—that our B.Sc.'s and M.Sc.'s have not justified their degrees. True it is that some of our B.Sc.'s and M.Sc.'s are following the profession of Law. The reason is that you do not provide any opening for their scientific talents and, to make two ends meet, they are forced to join the Bar. It is particularly to remedy this state of things, that not one but several technological colleges are necessary. Does my friend dispute that?

With regard to the amendment of Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy, I am not eager to refer the matter to the Director of Industries in the beginning, as we must first ascertain the views of the Council in this matter and, if our brother Councillors realise the necessity of institutions of Technology and Agriculture by signifying their assents to the resolution in question, it is then that we will ask the Government to give the resolution a definite shape without delay, and Government knows whom to refer to for expert advice in that connection.

Professor S. C. Mukherji has questioned the propriety of several resolutions of a similar nature demanding the establishment of Technological, Agricultural, Industrial and Commercial Colleges all at once. But necessity knows no law, and that several members who have given this matter their earnest consideration and have realised their importance speak very greatly in favour of their acceptance by the Council.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: We always complain of the high prices of the necessaries of life, and what is the reason for this? It is nothing but the undevelopment of the industries of India. I beg to submit that unless and until we give industrial education we shall not be able to develop the Indian industries. I strongly object to the amendment of our esteemed friend, Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy. He has suggested to us that the matter of the establishment of a technological institute in Calcutta should be referred back to a committee. To speak the truth, we are sick of committees and commissions. This question has been pending for a long time, not less than 20 years. I see that the Government has already submitted a report on the subject and I may be allowed to say that the report may be regarded as the final one. I draw the attention of the Council to the report on the technological institute for Calcutta. From that report it appears that the committee has carefully gone through the previous reports and they have submitted this opinion.

They say that "the result of the detailed enquiries which we have made fully bears out the opinion of the Calcutta Committee that there is a great need for a well-equipped and up-to-date technological institute in Calcutta. Such an institute on the one hand will render important service to the numerous industries which centre in Calcutta and its neighbourhood, and, on the other hand, will fit young men of Bengal to take a larger share in the conduct of those industries than has hitherto fallen to their lot." So it appears that this Committee, the Committee which has been appointed by the Government of Bengal, stated that no time should be lost in the establishment of a polytechnic institute in Calcutta. This is the recommendation which had been submitted to the Government by the Indian National Congress from time to time. This is the recommendation which had been submitted by the Calcutta University Commission as well as by the Indian Industrial Commission. We find that the cost of such a scheme is not a prohibitive one

because it appears from page 60 of their report that the capital expenditure, exclusive of the cost of building, is Rs. 10,20,000 only and the recurring cost—the gross cost—is only Rs. 5,46,000; or rather the net cost after amalgamation of the Civil Engineering College will be Rs. 2,93,000. So, it will appear that the capital expenditure is Rs. 10,00,000 and the annual recurring expenditure is Rs. 3,00,000. Assuming for argument's sake that the capital expenditure is Rs. 15,00,000 or Rs. 20,00,000, or that the annual expenditure is Rs. 5,00,000, I think the Government is quite justified in taking up this institute as early as possible. It further appears from the proceedings of a Conference which was held at Belvedere a few months ago that the Government is going to abandon this scheme altogether. It proposes to establish a technical school in Calcutta instead of a technical college as suggested before. The Government, or rather the Conference, is of opinion that this is rather an ambitious scheme. However, we must thank the Government for having taken the initiative at least to start a technical school in Calcutta. We find that the Government has already acquired a big plot of land in the centre of Calcutta and is going to construct a building, but I am sorry that no provision appears in the Budget for the construction of that building and therefore no time should be lost in the construction of that building, not for the establishment of the proposed technical school, but for the establishment of a technical college as recommended by the previous Committees and Commissions.

It has been stated that an agricultural college should be established in Calcutta. I am sorry I do not agree on that subject. There is not the slightest doubt that an agricultural college should be established in Bengal, but not in Calcutta or Dacca. It is most regrettable that though there is an agricultural college in Bihar, there is not a single one in Bengal. Therefore, there is not the slightest doubt that an agricultural college should be established in Bengal as early as possible, especially for the reason that 90 per cent. of the population of Bengal depend on agriculture; and to that college should be attached a big farm. Therefore, no time should be lost in establishing such a college in Bengal.

As regards expenditure, I may be allowed to say that if a technological institute is established in Calcutta, and as it is one of the duties of the Calcutta Corporation to provide for technical education, the Calcutta Corporation would be very glad to make a substantial contribution towards the maintenance of such an institute.

Therefore, I strongly support the resolution which has been moved for the establishment of a technological institute in Calcutta and I strongly oppose the amendment to refer the matter again to a Committee.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the question be now put.

The PRESIDENT: I must allow the Government Member to speak After that, if the closure is moved, I shall consider it.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The question of the establishment of a technological college in Calcutta has a long history behind it. In addressing a Conference which was held at Government House in November, 1919, His Excellency said: "The archives of the Education Department are choked with correspondence on the subject of a technological institute. Multitudinous recommendations of innumerable bodies and committees on the same subject constitute a forbidding volume of literature, but have failed to generate any action." His Excellency went on to say that he had come to the conclusion that the main reason why nothing had been done was that the schemes contemplated had been on too large and ambitious a scale. He took the view that it was far better to do something practical on a modest scale without delay than to continue playing with visions of an ambitious and resplendent polytechnic.

In accordance with this policy a scheme was put before the Conference for establishing in Calcutta a technical school with the object of training foremen mechanics in conjunction with the local engineering workshops, and, in conjunction with the Bengal Engineering College at Sibpur, a limited number of engineers. It was proposed that the school should deal with apprentices in mechanical and electrical engineering, including motor manufacture and repair and should include a general instruction class.

This proposal commended itself to the Conference, and a resolution to this effect was duly carried.

His Excellency further referred to the advantages of concentrating instruction in different branches of industry in one centre. He explained that there was no reason why when once Government had succeeded in establishing a technical school it should not gradually be expanded into a technological institute by incorporating existing institutions, such as the Weaving Institute at Serampore and the Calcutta Commercial Institute.

To provide for this policy of gradually expanding the technical school into a technological institute, the Conference adopted a second resolution to the effect that in the selection of the site, in the design of the building and in the constitution of the management of the school, allowance should be made for its expansion later into a technological institute.

The Conference then appointed a Committee which, under the chairmanship of Sir Rajendra Nath Mukharji, worked out a scheme for the establishment of a technical school in Calcutta. The admirable report of this Committee was adopted in another meeting of the Conference

ield in July last and Government are now taking steps to give effect o its recommendations.

Proceedings are going on for the acquisition of a plot of land in Corporation Street, at a cost of about Rs. 8,50,000. It is hoped that possession of this land will be obtained shortly. Building operations will be started at once, and it is hoped that the building will be ready for occupation and the school will begin its work in June, 1922. I may also mention that a school for the training of apprentices is being started at Kanchrapara. For the buildings of the Calcutta Technical School a provision of Rs. 1,00,000 has been made in the Budget for 1921-22.

The scheme is perhaps a modest one, but it is satisfactory to feel that we have made a beginning and I can assure the movers of these resolutions that the question of its gradual expansion into a technological institute will not be lost sight of. Meantime it must not be forgotten that many of the branches to which the Technological Institute would devote its energies are being served, to some extent, by existing institutions, such as the Apprentice Department of the Sibpur College, the Mainamati Survey School, the Ashanulla School of Engineering at Dacca, the Calcutta Commercial Institute and the Serampore Weaving Institute.

Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur suggests that the Technological College should be affiliated to the Calcutta University and should grant degrees. With the modest beginning that we have made, the question of affiliation to the University does not at present arise. Our present object is to provide apprentices in engineering workshops with a proper theoretical training and thereby turn out foremen mechanics and a few engineers. The institution will not turn out men with such a high degree of training as would entitle them to degrees. As the scheme progresses and the school develops into a fully-equipped technological institute, the question of affiliation to the University and the granting of degrees will naturally arise.

Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur asks for the establishment in Calcutta of an agricultural college. In the matter of higher agricultural education, Government can also claim that they have not been idle. At a meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council held on the 12th August 1919, Mauli Fazl-ul Haq moved a resolution, which after discussion and amendment, read as follows:—" That this Council recommends to the Governor-in-Council that a fully-equipped agricultural institute be established at Dacca at an early date."

This resolution was accepted by Government and agreed to by the Council. Active steps are being taken to give effect to it. An area of 300 acres of land has been acquired as the site of the institute and plans and estimates are well on their way towards completion. Beyond lectures on plant breeding, farm accounts and survey, the course will consist almost entirely of practical instruction. The equipment of the

institute will include mechanical appliances of various kinds for the cultivation of land, and good workshops, where students will get a sound practical knowledge of engineering, pumping and other implements which are in use. There will also be a dairy, and an extensive irrigation system will be used to demonstrate the importance of irrigation on high lands in assisting the growth of valuable crops and in helping to solve the question of cattle fodder which is so acute a problem in this densely populated province. This institute is in accordance with the proposals of the Calcutta University Commission. Their main proposal was that after a student had taken a Degree of Bachelor of Science, with a curriculum revised so as to equip him for specialisation in Agriculture, he would proceed for a period of training to an agricultural institute of the kind which we are establishing. On the completion of his training there he would receive a diploma, and a student who had taken the Degree of Bachelor of Science, together with the diploma of the institute, would be entitled to the Degree of Bachelor of Agriculture under the University.

Government is committed to the establishment of an institute at Dacca and there is no room at present for another institute or college in Bengal. The Calcutta University Commission particularly insisted on the necessity for caution in the number of students for whom training was provided. As openings for the employment of passed students would for some time to come be comparatively few, they proposed to limit the number of students to 20 a year. The Agricultural Institute at Dacca will have accommodation for 52 students, but for the present it is proposed to admit only 20 annually.

I have explained what the Government are doing to meet the demand for technical and agricultural education. We are establishing an agricultural institute on the lines recommended by the Calcutta University Commission. We are providing a technical school in Calcutta with the express intention of developing it into a technological institute. The process which this development is to follow has still to be considered. I think that, as suggested by Dr. Suhrawardy, the matter should be put into the hands of the Director of Industries and his Advisory Board, and that they should be asked to draw up a definite scheme for the gradual expansion of the technical school into a technological institute. In doing so, they should have regard to the recommendations of the Indian Industrial Commission and the Calcutta University Commission. With these remarks, I accept the amendment proposed by Dr. Suhrawardy.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: It is perhaps rather extraordinary that a Member of Council should intervene in a discussion regarding which the Minister in charge has replied, but having been in charge of the Education Department for over two years and having always taken an interest in

this branch of education, I think it my duty to lay a few facts before the movers of the resolution and the respective amendments as to what the position really is regarding technical education in Bengal. The Hon'ble the Minister has very rightly pointed out all that is being done in Calcutta; also of the activities of Government with regard to agricultural education. He has, however, forgotten to mention a very important scheme in which Government has taken action—a scheme which is ready for going ahead with as soon as funds are available. The question which arose three or four years ago was this: that the training of apprentices at Sibpur to be mechanical engineers—where could it be carried out and was it practical enough? Should not the Apprentice Department be brought into closer relationship with workshops? You must train your mechanical foremen in workshops. It is a thing that has been admitted. Therefore the Governing Body of the Civil Engineering College first examined this question and invited the co-operation of certain railways. The Eastern Bengal Railway were willing to come in. Then the Government had a second Committee, presided over by my esteemed friend Sir Rajendra Nath Mukharji. They worked out a scheme for providing a proper system of hostels and a proper technical school at Kanchrapara and this has been accepted. Arrangements are being made to admit apprentices from Kanchrapara who are particularly promising in view of their undergoing a special course at Sibpur. This Committee also suggested systematising the whole question of apprentices under a Board of Apprentices. This Board will generally co-ordinate the work of the Kanchrapara and Calcutta Technical Schools. I do not for a moment question that there may be room for further expansion in the direction of higher technological training, but if the Council thinks that the industries of the country can progress without proper provision for the training of mechanical engineers near workshops, it is making a great mistake, and what I should like to point out to this Council is, that now that His Excellency has appointed Standing Committees, I think that it would be wiser for this Council instead of simply passing this resolution, because a resolution can easily be passed here, but can only be carried into effect if funds are available, and what I suggest is that instead of passing this resolution it would be wiser for the two Standing Committees that have been appointed for the Departments of Agriculture and of Industries to examine not only the Kanchrapara scheme, the schemes regarding which the Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri has spoken, but also the scheme which Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose and others have in contemplation.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I beg to support this resolution. I am fully aware of the fact that the institution at Kanchrapara, which I had the good fortune of visiting several times, is working quite satisfactorily, but I know also that the country is long clamouring for higher training in technology. Our students have got

sufficient literary education, and if I may be allowed to say so, exclusive literary education, but they are not fully equipped with that knowledge which would enable them to make two ends meet and carry on the bitter struggle for life. It is, therefore, highly desirable that in this country, as I once brought to the notice of the Council, there should be an expansion of education with regard to Applied Chemistry and Industrial Chemistry, so that the people may be able to undergo the trials of life better. I am also aware of the fact that the University Commission and the Industrial Commission and in fact, committees after committees have reported in favour of the establishment of a college for the higher training of technology, but nothing has been done so far. Is it not, therefore, necessary to take immediate steps for the establishment of such an institution? I think there cannot be two opinions in this matter. At Cawnpore they have thought it necessary to establish a college of this kind and there cannot be any doubt that a college ought to be established in Calcutta where there are more opportunities of its development than anywhere else in the province. My submission to you, therefore, is that the establishment of such a college is urgently necessary.

Reference has been made to the fact that several resolutions had been moved in the Council urging the development of agricultural education in the province. This education is a necessity, and I would ask the Council to consider what steps ought to be taken to attract people to profit by it. This resolution emphasises the fact that there ought to be an agricultural college. The Minister in charge has brought to the notice of the Council that Government have already taken steps in this direction at Dacca. We have no quarrel with it, but we must see how it develops in the future. With these few words I support the resolution.

The resolution of Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur was then put and carried.

The PRESIDENT: The next motion need not, I think, be put, because that is included in the one already passed.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: The Government have been defeated in every motion concerning the good of this country and it is time that they should resign. (Cries of "Order, Order.")

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I rise to a point of order. Is the member entitled to make that observation?

The PRESIDENT: I think the member had no right to make that observation.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: As regards this motion, as the Government have already appointed certain committees, therefore it fails of itself.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn: "This Council recommends to the Government that three standing committees be appointed by the Government, consisting of elected members of the Council, to advise the three Ministers in the matter of the administration of the subjects under their charge."

India Act: Ministers' salaries.

Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: "This Council recommends to the Government to take the best legal opinion in England such as that of Sir John Simon or Sir Frederick Pollock, with reference to the interpretation of section 52 (*1*) and 72D of the Government of India Act, on the following questions:—

(*1*) Whether by virtue of the power conferred by section 52 (*1*) of the Government of India Act the Council may at an ordinary meeting reduce the salary of a Minister, or whether that power may only be properly exercised at a Budget meeting when the proposals of the Government for the appropriation of the revenue are submitted to the vote of the Council in the form of demands for grants (section 72D).

(*2*) Whether the power to vote a particular Minister's salary conferred by section 52 (*1*) of the Government of India Act may be exercised on more than one occasion during the said Minister's tenure of office, and, if so, at what times.

(*3*) Whether a Minister's salary is to be regarded as an expenditure included within section 72D (*3*) (*iii*) of the Government of India Act by reason of the fact that at an ordinary meeting of the Council, a motion moved under section 52 (*1*) of the said Act for the reduction of the said salary was lost by a majority of votes.

(*4*) Whether all Ministers' salaries must be the same."

I gave notice of this resolution, I believe, on the 11th of March, and on the 14th of March the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler made a statement to the effect that His Excellency had decided to refer this matter for legal opinion to England. This is really all that I want. Under the circumstances I think this resolution is useless. I desire, therefore, to ask your leave to let me withdraw it.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The Official Vote.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: "This Council recommends to the Government that in any matter relating to purely transferred subjects, the official Members other than Ministers, be requested not to vote although they may take part in the discussion."

The subject of this resolution is of fundamental importance so far as the working of the new principles of Government embodied in the constitution ushered in by the Government of India Act, 1919, is concerned. Under section 72(*b*) (41) of that Act all questions in a Governor's Legislative Council shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present other than the person presiding, and so far as statutory provision goes, the official Members are within their legal rights when they vote on matters affecting purely transferred subjects. Legal rights are, however, not always the same thing as constitutional rights. Technically speaking, it may perhaps yet be said that the King of England has the power to veto acts passed by the British Parliament, but constitutionally speaking, in the words of Bagehot, he will have to sign his own death-warrant if Parliament wants this to be done. I think that it is not inopportune for me to bring this matter for discussion in this Council.

Before going into detailed discussion, I must point out that the Legislative Department has so changed the wording of this resolution which was sent to them, that the import of the resolution has changed considerably. The original resolution I sent in was as follows:—

" Whereas it is the intention of the Parliament and of His Majesty the King that in the administration of transferred subjects, the responsibility of the Ministers and of the elected representatives of the people should be made clear——

The PRESIDENT: If you sent in a resolution to this effect and it was disallowed, you cannot refer to it.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I only say that the original resolution was mutilated.

The PRESIDENT: You must move the resolution in the form in which it now stands. The resolution in the form in which you sent it, was objectionable under the rules, and you cannot discuss that point here.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: I simply say that this was the original resolution, but I am moving the resolution as it now stands.

It was the intention that this Council should issue executive mandates to the official Members to refrain from voting. I have not much faith in mere executive mandates; on the other hand, it is my intention, whether we, the non-official members of this Council as well as the official Members, should not by our own actions (and without direction from above) practise the maxim contained in the instructions issued by His Majesty the King-Emperor to His Excellency the Governor of this Presidency, the instructions which are morally binding not only upon His Excellency, but upon all other officials in this Presidency, and if I may say so, upon us, the non-official members also. This is what His Majesty said : " You shall further the purposes of the said Act to the

end that the institution and methods of Government therein provided shall be laid upon the best and surest foundations, that the people of the said Presidency shall acquire such habits of political action and respect, such conventions as will best and soonest fit them for self-government."

In paragraph 233 of the Report on Indian Constitutional Reforms it is laid down:—

We wish to see the convention established, though we propose to lay down no rule on the point, that on the subjects transferred to the control of Ministers, the official members of the Legislative Council would abstain from voting and leave the decision of the question to the non-official members of the Council.

The principles upon which are based the present system of Government are in the words of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament as follows:—

It (the Bill) partitions the domain of Provincial Governments into two fields, one of which is made over to Ministers chosen from the elected members of the provincial legislature, while the other remains under the administration of the Governor in Council. . . It is this distinction which justifies the method by which the Bill imposes responsibility, both on Ministers to the Legislative Council and on the members of the Legislative Council to their constituents for the result of that part of the administration which is transferred to their charge. . . While the Committee anticipate much advantage from amicable and, as far as possible spontaneous associations for purposes of deliberation, they would not allow it to confuse the duties or obscure the separate responsibility which will rest on the two parts of the administration.

The instruments of instructions to His Excellency the Governor also lay down as follows:—

In as much as certain matters have been reserved for the adminstration according to law of the Governor-in-Council in respect of which the authority of our Governor-General in Council shall remain unimpaired while certain other matters have been transferred to the administration of the Governor acting with a Minister, it will be for you so to regulate the business of the Government of the Presidency, that so far as may be possible the responsibility for each of these respective classes of matters may be kept clear and distinct.

You cannot have this separate responsibility for the administration of the transferred subjects if the official Members continue to vote on all matters pertaining thereto. Apart, however, from the question of separate responsibility, it is an administrative and political anomaly that the official Members should continue to vote on matters apertaining to the transferred subjects. In the present Council the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bengal, along with the Director of Public Instruction and the Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Education and Medical Departments, are members. Now, suppose, that on a question of medical education—I take an hypothetical case—the Minister in charge adopts a policy contrary to the opinion expressed by his three advisers, but in consonance with the view which he believes to be that of the majority of this Council. The matter is brought to a vote. What would be the result? Under the new regime all official members of the

Legislative Council, except the Members of the Executive Council are free to speak and vote as they choose and, if they are true to themselves they are to vote according to their own conscience. You thus find three subordinate officers voting publicly against their official head, which is next day made known to the hierarchy of subordinate officials under them, yet forsooth they are forced to carry out that policy as they must do. You cannot have administrative efficiency in that case. Suppose another kind of case. The Minister in charge accepts the advice given to him by his three official advisers and acts against the wishes of the majority of the Council. The matter is brought to a vote and the Minister gets the support of his official subordinates, but is defeated by a majority of votes of this Council. In fact, the Minister loses the confidence of the Council and you get new men as Ministers who would try to carry out the policy of the Council. The new Minister now comes in public and open conflict with his official advisers, but he would have to carry out that policy all the same. Possibly the next time we may find these official Members voting against the new Ministers and trying to undermine their powers. So long as the Executive Government does not depend on the votes of a legislative body for their existence, you can allow subordinate officials who are members of that body to vote freely. When, however, the executive have to change when they lose the confidence of the Council, while the subordinate officials must, as a matter of course, vote in support of the views of their officials superiors or must not vote at all, you cannot afford to expect them to vote freely and according to their own conscience. And as it is unthinkable that whoever be the Minister, the official Members should, like the King's friend, by their vote either maintain them in power or turn them out against the wishes of the elected representatives of the people, the only alternative left is that they should not vote in matters affecting the transferred subjects. This question may be dealt with from another point of view. We are on our trial. On the ability of the elected representatives of the people to conduct the administration of the transferred subjects satisfactorily, depends, in the words of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament, the question of full responsible government to us. How we have done will be judged by the Statutory Commission and we cannot afford to have our responsibilities obscured or marred by the votes of the official Members of the Council. The Joint Committee recognise that we are liable to commit mistakes and most probably we shall do. But we cannot afford to have judgment passed against us later, that we did not commit mistakes as we were kept straight by the official Members. In this view of the case I am supported by the European Association, for I quote the following from its annual report of 1920:

As you are aware the present Reform experiment is for a stated period at the end of which time a Royal Commission will sit to decide what measure of success has been attained and whether the Indian people are to be entrusted with still further powers. Let us not be under any misapprehension. If the Indians can satisfy the people of England that they are capable of self-government, additional power will be granted and India will sooner or later become a self-governing part

of the British Empire. Let us watch carefully lest the Indian politician clai and receives credit for ability in self-government which is not his but that of t British officials who are guiding his early steps in Parliamentary practice an procedure. On points of this description the British public will require consta enlightenment.

This matter does not deal with a question of administrative detail, an I hope so far as the official legislative Members will take part in the di cussion they should discuss it freely from their own point of view an not as Members of Government. In our discussion during the last tw months I have not seen a single instance in which one official Membe has voted on the side other than that on which the majority of the offici Members has voted, and this would lead one to suppose that they hav not as yet availed themselves of the right to free speech and free vot now conferred upon them by the Select Committee of Parliament. Thi also shows that the officials of the Government of Bengal have not ye been able to shake off their old habits of thinking. But if, and I thin I am correct in saying that, every one present here wishes to work th Reforms in the proper spirit, I hope members will discuss and vote o the present question freely.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I am afraid I cannot accord my support to th resolution which has been moved by my hon'ble friend, Babu Surendr Nath Ray. It is, in my opinion, too premature. Ours is a new constitu tion in the making, and I for one feel that we cannot be too cautious o circumspect in marking out or determining the lines of its future devel opement. Can we say that we have had sufficient experience already o the new constitution to be in a position to lay down with confidence a hard and fast rule like the one which we are now invited to adopt? recognise that the resolution has behind it the high authority and sanc tion of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report. But, if I am not mistaken, th authors of that report in dealing with this matter, refer to it as a conven tion, and if it is a convention, I ask, is a resolution of this Council, befo the Council is barely three months old, the right method of bringing th convention into existence? A convention like this, as I understand it ought to be left to grow spontaneously in due course of time without th application of any artificial stimulus. Sir, on abstract *a priori* ground it may be, as doubtless it is, a counsel of perfection, that in transferre subjects, the official Members shall have no vote but only a right of di cussion, but it seems to me that this is a convention which presuppose and is based upon other conventions which have not yet grown up in ou system. We cannot say, for example, that we have had a party syste amongst us or that we have got a ministerial party with all that it im plies, though we hope that before long, we shall have such a party. ask, therefore, will it be fair in the present circumstances to deprive th Ministers of the support of their official colleagues in matters relatin to their special departments. Then, there is another difficulty, a mor serious difficulty, to my mind, in our way of accepting this resolutio The official Members under the Government of India Act have got th

same rights and privileges as the non-official members have, and I fail to see how we can, by means of a resolution, ask that official Members should, on certain occasions, suspend the exercise of one of their rights. What would my honourable friend think, if an official Member were to move a resolution suggesting that in certain circumstances the non-official Members should not exercise some of their rights. I can well imagine the indignant language in which my hon'ble friend and others would dismiss such a resolution. I submit, therefore, that it would be unwise on our part to accept this resolution. Let us not force the pace of the Council; let it pursue its normal course of development, and instead of being anxious to keep out the official Members from voting on transferred subjects, let us all work in harmony and co-operation for the day when we shall have the officials not merely voting on these questions, but voting on our side.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: It would not be amiss if I place before the House an opinion on the subject extracted from a letter written to Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu by Mr. Curtis, the chief apostle of this dyarchical form of government. He says: " The first step I would suggest is to get rid of the official vote. What real good is done by this cumbrous expedient (which deceives no one), of ordering intelligent officials to vote irrespective of their personal judgment. This practice operates to prostitute the principles of free and conscientious judgment by individuals, upon which alone responsible government can rest. The effect is to create artificial parties, one Indian and one British. The constant pressure of the official vote operates to check the development of real Indian parties, and it is only in so far as you develop such parties, that you will achieve self-government. I have said, 'get rid of official votes,'—that you can do without getting rid of official speakers. If any Council is to pronounce an opinion it must have the matter in question explained to it by those in actual charge of the business. Let Members of the Government sit in the Council and speak, but let voting be confined to members who are not officials."

The above lines written by a great political thinker, cannot but command the greatest respect of the House.

With regard to the transferred subjects, where Ministers are substantially responsible to us, the official votes have no purpose to serve. In paragraph 233 of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report, to which reference has already been made, it was thought desirable by the illustrious authors that convention would be established that official Members would abstain from voting on transferred subjects. In paragraph 90 of the Government of India despatch, dated the 5th March, 1919, this subject has been examined in the light of the opinions received from the Provincial Governments and in the conclusions arrived therein, we find the Government of India admitting " that the existing conventions by which official Members invariably support their Government have been too rigidly

followed." "Our own view is," continues the Government of India despatch, "that as regards transferred subjects, it is undesirable to set up a convention which may have the effect of emphasising the cleavage between official and non-official members." They finally recommended that with certain reservations the official Members of the legislature should have freedom of speech and voting. The parliamentary Joint Select Committee accepted the recommendation and said: "All other official Members of the Legislative Councils should be free in their speech and vote as they choose." But the Committee made one exception in the case of the Members of the Executive Council and Ministers. They said that the Member of the Executive Council and Ministers should not oppose one another by speech or vote. The Committee further laid down that they should not be required to support either by speech or vote, any of their colleague's proposals which they do not approve. The difficulty of giving effect in practice to this sort of freedom of speech is very clearly set forth in letter No. 2304, dated the 15th October 1918, written to the Government of India by the Government of Bengal. Here, the Government says: "Ordinarily in regard to matters coming before the Legislative Council, the local Government take a line which they consider correct, and to which they attach importance. To allow official Members freedom of speech and vote in such cases would result in presenting to the Council and the public the highly undesirable spectacle of the officers of Government in open disagreement with the authority which they serve, since there would obviously be no point in allowing freedom of speech and vote, except in cases where those affected were not in agreement with the Government. The desirability of a united front in the local Government itself is recognised in the Report, and it seems no less desirable that the officers of the Government should be of one voice in the Council except in the comparatively rare cases in which the Government is content to leave its own attitude an open question." And, Sir, the lesson we have from the experience of the past few weeks is that, in spite, of the admitted freedom of speech and vote of officials, they apparently act on this dictum of the Bengal Government. They invariably, and I might say, quite gracefully vote blindly and solidly for the Government——

The PRESIDENT: Order! Order! Members of Government vote and are now allowed to vote as they choose and it is improper for you to say they vote blindly.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I submit to your ruling; but that is what the practice has been. However, I shall not be wrong if I say that the convention in this matter has already been set up among the officials. Such being the case we urge that instead of perpetuating this unconventional convention, we ought to tackle the question manfully. We do not mind, for the time being if the officials vote with the Government on questions dealing with the reserved subjects, but, with regard to the transferred subjects, we demand that the officials do abstain

from voting. I say without fear of contradiction that a popular Minister should not look for support to their salaried Secretaries. Our support ought to be quite enough for him. The Minister who, in support of his policy, fails to secure a sufficient elected majority, has no right to sit for a moment in his Ministerial chair. Realisation of this fact is essential in a responsible form of Government, for otherwise the responsibility comes to naught. This fact alone can ensure the selection of a Minister who can command the confidence of the elected majority.

The House, I think, will remember what Lord Sinha said in the House of Lords during the third reading of the Bill. I might repeat it again. "As regards transferred subjects," said His Lordship, "legislation for them will be governed by the wishes of the elected majority." Mark the word "elected majority."

This resolution wants nothing more than this, and I heartily support it and appeal to the House for its support as well.

Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: My friend, Babu S. N. Ray, has raised a very important constitutional question, and I do not know whether he has been wise in his attempt to introduce a debate on a subject of such vital importance at the fag-end of the session. However, when the question has been raised, and it is to be debated, I think it is necessary to consider the matter very seriously and fully. First of all, there is no question that clause (8), section 72D of the Government of India Act, gives the fullest freedom of speech to members, but with regard to voting and other matters, the Act itself is not so explicit. I do not agree with my friend, Mr. D. C. Ghose, when he says that if this resolution is carried, it would be interfering with the free right of the official Members. My submission is that this is not so. What are the rights of the official Members? Of course they have the free right of debate and discussion, they have the free right to vote on the reserved subjects. All that the resolution moved by Babu S. N. Ray wants, is that the official members are requested to abstain from voting on "transferred" subjects. Now, this distinction of "transferred" and "reserved subjects" is surely to introduce some confusion and, in order to avoid that confusion, opinions have been expressed from time to time in this Council and other places. Now, with regard to the position of the Ministers, it has often struck me that it is an anomalous one. What is exactly the position of the Ministers? Of course, we talk so much of responsible government. Now, it is quite true, as has been said by the previous speaker as well as by Babu S. N. Ray, that whenever any question arose in which official Members voted one way, the ordinary elected members voted the other way, the Ministers always voted with the official Members. This may be due to their anxiety to avoid friction, but the position is quite anomalous. If the Ministers are our Ministers, if they are responsible to their constituencies and to the elected members of this Council, I do not know how they can vote against us. Mr. Ghose

has said that this will come in time; that will depend on convention, but this is an anomalous position; and the spectacle of Ministers always voting with the officials have created an opinion outside the Council that the Reforms are a farce. What are the Ministers? The Ministers are quite as good as the officials themselves and they vote with the officials in every matter. I do not say that the officials are wrong, but at any rate the spirit is there, that is to say, they have to vote often against the opinion of the majority of the non-official members. This is an anomalous position, and this anomaly can be very easily and smoothly removed by the convention suggested in the resolution that is to say, the officials, though they may take part in the discussion and put the official view before the Council, though they may supply the Council with any information which may modify the opinions of most of the members, having the fullest right of free discussion and freedom of speech, they should abstain from voting on "transferred" subjects. Of course, this convention would not be extended to reserved subjects. That will show that in regard to "transferred" subjects, the Council and the Ministers are quite independent. Otherwise, on transferred subjects, if the Ministers voted one way and the majority voted the other way, their position would simply become ridiculous and anomalous. Under these circumstances, I think the suggestion in the resolution may be adopted as leading to the growth of a convention, though the word "convention" does not occur in the resolution itself. But I think it is a very salutary provision and will remove many difficulties in the future. There is no question of depriving the official Members of any rights or privileges; they are free to make their speeches and to take part in the discussions, and their opinions are quite welcome. We, coming from the outside, do not know every detail of administration and we are liable to commit blunders; we are liable to take distorted views of matters and often our errors are to be rectified by the official Members; but, in order to secure full freedom in the matter of voting, when, after a full debate or discussion, a question is put to the Council, I think full responsibility and freedom can only be secured if the official Members abstain from voting. I beg to support Babu S. N. Ray's resolution whole-heartedly.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I beg to support the resolution moved by Babu Surendra Nath Ray. It is a very inoffensive resolution. What does it say? It says that official Members be requested not to vote. There is no compulsion on them; it is a simple request not to vote and a very reasonable request it is. The Government have granted us some sort of self-government through the elected members and the Government have transferred certain subjects to the charge of Ministers. I do not see why Government should intervene in a matter in which the Ministers differ from the elected members of the Council. If they do intervene, there is no self-government whatsoever of any kind. Therefore, it is only reasonable and proper that

they should not intervene. There is another matter. If the Ministers know that they will not have the support of the Government party, they will not venture to go against the wishes of the elected members, as they have been doing the whole of this session. That is not a position very much to be desired. I do not object to the Government having Ministers who have no following, who may not be able to do their work and who may only read the reports written by their Secretaries. But what I object to is this—that they should not go against the wishes of the elected members. I therefore submit that this resolution is a very proper one.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I have the highest respect for the opinions of our esteemed friends, Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur and Babu Surendra Nath Ray but I am extremely sorry that I strongly differ from them in this particular respect. I admit the force of their arguments and, I entirely agree with them that they are quite correct in the principle which they are going to lay down. But I beg to submit that while it appears to be theoretically correct, there are practical difficulties which stand in the way. They suggest that this Council should request the official Members not to vote. The request of this Council should be regarded as a mandate, and I understand the official Members of this Council will be placed in a false position. Then they suggest that these official Members may take part in the discussion but at the same time they suggest that they should not vote. It appears to be inconsistent. I am speaking for myself—if I am called upon to express my opinion on a particular subject, I must study the question thoroughly, and if I am not allowed to vote, I doubt whether I would take the same responsibility. Therefore it will be most regrettable if the official Members do not take part in the deliberations of this Council, though on transferred subjects, without any responsibility whatever. I am really sorry to find that under certain circumstances the official Members shall be under the painful necessity of retiring from this Council. I find some practical difficulty also. Suppose, for argument's sake, this resolution is accepted, then on item No. 8, which relates to a transferred subject, I understand that the official Members are not to vote; also on item No. 10, I do understand that they are to keep themselves aloof when it is under discussion. Whereas if item No. 13 or any other item which relates to a reserved subject is under discussion, they are to take part. I am a co-operator myself and I want to co-operate with the official Members of this Council. I know that most of them have the greatest experience of the administration of the Bengal Government, especially on transferred subjects; and I want to hear their views and to give weight to their expressions of opinions. I do not mean to say that I would accept their opinion as a mandate, but I must give it my best consideration. That is the reason why I beg to submit that the official Members of this Council should be allowed to take part not only in the deliberations of this Council but should also be allowed to vote.

It must not be presumed that they are to follow the Government, as it appears to me that the Government of India have just laid down a rule, under which they can express their independent opinion and vote according to their conscience, irrespective of the orders of the Government. Under these circumstances, I do not think that I would be justified in supporting the resolution moved by my friend, Babu Surendra Nath Ray.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I heartily support the resolution moved by my friend, Babu Surendra Nath Ray. I am glad that an opportunity has been given to discuss the relative position of the official and non-official members in respect to transferred subjects. To my mind if the official Members can control the deliberations and the decisions on transferred subjects, I do not know what is the force of the subjects being called "transferred." Under section 46 of the Government of India Act the presidencies of Fort William in Bengal, Bombay, and Fort St. George, and Bihar and Orissa shall each be governed in relation to reserved subjects by a Governor in Council, and in relation to transferred subjects by the Governor acting with Ministers appointed under this Act. A distinction is made there as to how the reserved subjects should be dealt with and as to how the transferred subjects should be dealt with. Under section 49, rules are to be made by the Governor for the convenient transaction of business in his Executive Council, and with his Ministers, and every order so made shall be binding, I ask if the Ministers have got any vote or any voice in the deliberations of all the subjects brought before the Governor's Council. I believe that the Ministers have got no controlling voice. Under section 50, if any difference of opinion arises on any question brought before a meeting of the Governor's Executive Council, the Governor in Council shall be bound by the opinion and decision of the majority of those present, and if they are equally divided, the Governor or other person presiding shall have a second or casting vote. From this section it appears to me that over the reserved subjects the Ministers have got no voice in the Executive Council. I think, therefore, that in considering the transferred subjects the official Members should have no voice or should have no control. Though they may take part in the deliberations and express their opinion on the subject, in coming to a decision they cannot be allowed to vote. If they are allowed to vote, then they can control the decision one way or the other. If they can go against the wishes of the representatives of the people, so far as the transferred subjects are concerned, I see no utility of the subjects being called "transferred." If the Council be outvoted by the vote of the official Members it would to my mind be inconsistent with the principle of the arrangement as between transferred and reserved subjects. I am not sure, however, what rule prevails in the deliberations of the matters in a full Council of the Governor—I mean the Governor and his Executive Councillors and Ministers. But if I am right in my conjecture that the Ministers have got no controlling voice there, that they cannot outvote the Governor, I

believe similarly by analogy the official Members should have no voice in the deliberations of the transferred subjects. So I think that no anomaly would arise; and I do not agree with my friend, Mr. D. C. Ghose or Mr. Addy. It is but proper and reasonable that the transferred subjects should be allowed to be dealt with by the representatives of the people and not by the official Members. With these few words, I whole-heartedly support the resolution.

Sir ASHUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I look upon this resolution in this way—it is simply a request and nothing more. We are not going to deprive anybody of any rights. The question before the Council, as the mover put it, is not that we are going to deprive anybody of any rights. There is no question of that. I cannot understand why it has been thought so, because the resolution is very clear on the point. It is said that we have not much experience of these matters. What is the experience we have to acquire in these matters and what is the meaning of such experience? The officials may vote or may not vote; they may vote on a particular transferred subject and if they vote against the majority, it will not be of any value. What we undoubtedly want is their advice in these matters. When a subject is being discussed, we want information from them and the way they think about it. No restriction is intended to be put upon their freedom of speech; in fact, we cordially invite their advice in all matters. Then the question is that if official members vote on a resolution of this character, it is liable to be misinterpreted that is to say, the attitude of Government may be misunderstood. I want that in these matters the voting should be independent of such a factor, that is to say, the people who are going to vote may not be influenced in any way because the Government view may or may not be considered in favour of or against the particular resolution. I think that the voting ought to be entirely independent of that factor and I therefore support this resolution. I express a hope that it should be possible for us in discussions of this character, when we are moving resolutions or supporting them, not to speak equivocally, as we sometimes do, and always to try not to be offensive to anybody. I certainly think that ought to be the rule in this Council. If we want to attack any one, if he deserves to be attacked, we should do it openly, but ambiguous reflections which are very difficult to get hold of should not be indulged in. I think we have no right to attack any one in this way, and I hope that it will be borne in mind when we take part in these discussions.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: This resolution is of a kind which, I think, the Council will do well to regard with some caution; and if it means anything—in some respects its meaning is not altogether clear—it practically indicates an attempt on the part of one section of the Council to deprive another section of what has been given to it as a statutory right inherent in its presence as members of the Council. Underlying the resolution there is also a theory of the tyranny of the majority

which might conceivably be pushed, in other circumstances, to very undesirable results.

I have found some difficulty in appreciating the arguments which have been advanced, not, I am glad to say, with unanimity in the Council, but, practically they seem to amount to three. In the first place, we had a reference to paragraph 233 of the Joint Report of the Secretary of State and the Viceroy, which did, quite truly, refer to the possibility of a convention by which the transferred subjects would be left to the discretion of non-official members alone. But it appears to have been overlooked that that pronouncement preceded the final form which the Reforms Scheme took, and for the authoritative interpretation of the intention of the Reforms Scheme we must look to the report of the Joint Committee of Parliament and to the Act itself. Moreover, incidentally, that pronouncement was challenged at the time by the Government of India, who thought that it might merely intensify to an undesirable degree the cleavage between official and non-official members, whereas it was their desire that the Council, composed of these two elements, should work together as one. As a set-off to this argument we have had from Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray a reference to a pronouncement made by Mr. Curtis—a pronouncement made I know not on what date and under what circumstances. Now it is true that Mr. Curtis interested himself greatly in the constitutional problems of this country, and helped materially in arriving at certain subsequent conclusions, but Mr. Curtis is a sufficiently experienced student of constitutional practice to be the last person to argue that a dictum of his own should override the decision of Parliament, which, in a matter of this kind, is the final authority. Then, thirdly, we have, practically, he argument that, in the opinion of some members, it would better further the aims and objects of the Reforms Scheme if the official Members stood aside in the way they wish. We have had comments on the manner in which official members have voted so far in the course of the present session, but while these comments are clearly meant to be condemnatory, it seems to have been overlooked that this line really leads to the conclusion that it is not really that the speakers object to officials voting; they really object to officials members voting *against* them. If all official members voted *with* Babu Surendra Nath Ray and Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray they would doubtless be the first to applaud so excellent a practice. I put it to the Council that we can best clear our minds of the so-called constitutional argument if we go back to the Act itself and to the report of the Joint Committee, since this Council is constituted under an Act of Parliament and can only act within the limits therein laid down. It is perfectly clear, and nobody has denied it this afternoon, that the Government of India Act gives official members the status of full members of this Council. The Council was deliberately constituted with a majority of non-officials and a minority of officials—a very marked minority, rendering somewhat ineffective the comments we have heard as to the malign

influence which official members can exercise over the decisions of the Council. The Act, therefore, constituted a Council, composed jointly of official and non-official members, giving each and all of them the full status of members. There is no differentiation in the Act between the relative status of these two parts; and, further, the Joint Committee specifically dealt with the question of voting. They specifically gave to the ordinary official member a free right of voting on all subjects; to the Members of the Executive Council they specifically gave a right of voting on all subjects, provided only that on transferred subjects, in the case of disagreement with Ministers, they should not vote. These are the clear conditions relating to the exercise of our privileges laid down by the Act and by the report of the Joint Committee, and I put it to the Council that it would be an attempt unreasonably to interfere with these privileges were this resolution to be passed. Underlying it is a theory which, as I have already said, might lead us far in very undesirable directions. From voting it is an easy stride to speaking, and in fact we have already heard from Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur that he would like officials not even to speak. But if the will of the majority is to prevail over the minority of officials to-day, what is to prevent its prevailing over other minorities of non-officials to-morrow? This Council, sooner or later, is sure to have before it agrarian legislation. Suppose the zamindars are in the majority; are they to decide that the tenant party should sit silent and not exercise their right of vote? Suppose —an almost inconceivable hypothesis—that the "poor litigant" was in the majority and the lawyer element in the minority, and we had a resolution before us like one we had recently about the Paper-Book Department; is the majority to rise up and decide that the pleaders should stand aside? Again, if a question affecting the University, which only returns one member, should arise; are we to decline to hear the restrained eloquence of Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur? The thing is unthinkable. A proposition of this kind would not stand five minutes' scrutiny and discussion by any Council working on sound constitutional lines. I can understand a deliberative assembly taking action to alter its constitution: for instance, Mr. Gladstone's first Home Rule Bill proposed to exclude the Irish Members from Parliament altogether; but I cannot understand a deliberative assembly, after admitting various members to full membership, subsequently seeking by resolution to deprive a section of them of the exercise of their rights. The only precedent that suggests itself is, I believe, Soviet Russia, where, if the reports are to be trusted, there is a rigid discipline exercised by those in power over the manner in which others admitted to the assembly vote. But even there, again judging by the reports, they do not prevent others from voting. They at least preserve the outward decencies, but if some members vote as they should not, they probably get shot when returning home. I do not advise the Council to adopt that alternative, which is indeed less desirable than the resolution, but I do put it to the Council that the resolution,

as it stands, is open to very serious misconstruction as to the wishes of the majority.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: I thank Babu Surendra Nath Ray for the resolution that he has brought before the Council and I am in full accord with the spirit of the resolution, but I am sorry that I have to oppose the resolution on other grounds. As far as I see it is never the wish of the Muhammadan members here to make themselves subject to the decision of the majority for the present. Their experience also of a time before the Reforms and even their experience at the present day does not make them hopeful and quite willing to submit to such a proposition. If I were to cite any case in point after the Reforms, I may say that, if you consider the question of nomination to the Calcutta Corporation, you will find that while formerly there used to be seven or eight Muhammadan members in the Calcutta Corporation at the present moment, when we have got at the head of affairs a venerable gentlemen who was taken to be the champion of Muhammadan rights and liberties, we find the number much reduced—and you will also find that along with him there are other bright luminaries of our country who could have set matters right, but that is not done. These are matters which make us ponder, and I ask our Hindu friends not to go so rapidly, but a bit slowly. Without meaning any offence to any of them—and among them I have persons for whom I have the greatest regard—I have said that the Muhammadans in a body do not like such a measure at the present moment. It may be said that when such depredations are made on the rights of Muhammadans—even the officials are parties to it. They used to be parties to it before and they are parties to it even at present—it is the duty not only of us, the Muhammadan members here, but also of the Hindu members, of the members of the Anglo-Indian community and others who are here to see that justice is done in every case. There is another thing to which, if my Hindu friend would look, they would find that there does not seem to be any necessity for the resolution. During the short time we are here, our Hindu friends must have noticed that we, the Muhammadan members, did not hesitate to side with them in every matter in which we were in the right and there is no reason for them to think that we shall on any occasion go against them when questions which will be brought forward before the Council will be in the interests of our country. There is no reason why they should be in a hurry now. I should ask them to wait for a better time. And to my mind the time is not very far off when both the Members and Ministers will always think that the interests of the minority is a matter which requires the greatest consideration, and particularly of minorities who are very much less in number, for instance, the Anglo-Indians, the Namasudras and others, and I wish to ask the members to wait for that time.

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler has told us that there are many matters which come before the Council, for instance, the question of

landlords and tenants. If the officials were left out of account, if their valuable opinion were not considered, it is quite likely that either the zamindars will get the sack or it is quite likely that the tenants will be nowhere. Under these circumstances, I am sorry I have to oppose the resolution.

Mr. H. A. STARK: I think we ought to remember that State administration is as much a science as it is an art. Some of us may have some theoretical knowledge of Government as a science, but very few of us have had an opportunity of learning anything of it as an art. It seems that under these circumstances the wisest course is not to rid ourselves of the help of those who have knowledge of Government both in theory and in practice. It was said by one of the speakers that in a certain quarter the advice had been given that the members of Council should act on their own initiative and responsibility as soon as possible, so that at the end of ten years they may be able to prove what rapid progress has been made in the direction of self-government. I feel that the advice given is not particularly sound. If at the end of ten years we are going to give a good account of ourselves, it will be largely due to our having been put on the right lines by those who are in a position to guide us while we are still in the earlier stages of legislative experiment. We are in a transitional stage. Nobody changes horses in midstream. We want to feel the ground beneath our feet before we attempt to carry a load. The load of Government consists not merely in giving directions, but also in reflecting whether our directions can be carried out. The latter consideration will assist us largely in taking our line of action. Emphasis has been laid on the fact that what is being proposed is not that official Members should be *forbidden* to exercise their vote, but that they should be requested not to use their vote—to abstain from voting. But is it human for any one to glow enthusiastic in discussion when he knows that at the end of it he will have no voice in the settlement of the question; that he will have to look at the scales without being able to put the weight of his vote into either pan; that he will have to stand passively by and witness an improper, a mischievous and a disastrous decision being arrived at without being allowed to save the situation, though he knows he could do so, by exercising his vote? I do feel we have no right whatever to impose such a request on anybody; and it is wise to make a request when we have not the power to compel its being acceded to and acted upon? I do feel most strongly that we want the official Members to help us. They have special knowledge and they have special experience, and we do not doubt their honesty of purpose. We can trust them to help us, and I for one most earnestly desire that we should take advantage of their presence as ordinary members of this Legislative Council. We want their experience. We want their support. We want their guidance. We want their vote.

Colonel A. J. PUGH: The real objection on the part of Mr. Curtis and others to the official vote was this, that the official classes were bound

vote as they are told and not as they pleased. That is the real ques-
on before us. This question was first of all discussed by a great many
us here before Mr. Montagu came out to India. The report was then
ade by Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford. It was again dis-
ssed by Lord Southborough's Committee and it was again discussed
the Government of India. Then the Joint Committee of the House of
ords and the House of Commons sat in London and they heard witnesses
om all over India. This matter was fully discussed and gone into.
eir objection was to the blind voting on behalf of Civilians and they
ve said, in their report, that so far as the Members and Ministers are
ncerned, they should not vote against one another, but so far as the
icials are concerned they should be free to vote as they please. When
y particular Bill or matter is brought forward by a Minister, we hope
at the officials, if they really believe that the matter which is being
ought forward by the Minister is right and is for the good of the coun-
y, will vote for it according to their conscience, and if it is not for the
od of the country, we hope that they will vote against it. That I be-
ve is the real criterion of their voting for the last few weeks in this
uncil. They have been voting so far as their conscience is concerned,
at is, they have voted according to their will and we hope they will
ntinue to do so.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: I am sorry that I
ve to oppose this resolution. My first point is that we may consider
e official Members of this Council as ballast of the ship of Council,
cause there are various interests represented in this Council—some
ve got their majority and some are in the minority. As pointed out
the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler in deciding these matters, the official
embers will be very useful members and their opinion will be one of
disinterested nature and without any prejudice in any direction. In the
xt place, the adoption of this resolution would mean the exclusion of
perience and professional knowledge. Take, for instance, the matter
public health. In this province matters are quite new. There are
me official Members coming from England and some other European
untries who may give some important and experienced opinion on
ese matters. So it would not be right to exclude these gentlemen
om voting in deciding these matters. There are various communities
o would like to have the greatest amount of money for primary edu-
tion. There are some classes who would want greater amount of
oney for University education. In these matters we also gain much
om the official Members who give their opinion based on experience
d according to the interests of this country. So I oppose this
olution.

The motion was then put and lost.

Medical Training Schools.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: "This Council recommends to the Government that early measures be taken for the establishment of medical schools for the training of village doctors."

The resolution merely reiterates a demand which has often been made by our countrymen. Some years ago, in 1916 I think, Dr. M. N. Banerjee moved a resolution in the Imperial Legislative Council urging the establishment of schools in different parts of the country for the purpose of imparting medical education in the vernacular. And in the last Bengal Legislative Council, some of its distinguished members, namely, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, Babu Surendra Nath Ray, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter, Sir Nilratan Sircar and others pleaded on several occasions, the urgency and importance of providing means for the training of doctors adequate enough in number for the needs and requirements of the rural areas. Besides, the press has repeatedly brought to the notice of Government, that the number of doctors in Bengal is so deplorably small that it is impossible to have any medical relief in many parts of the rural area in the province. In the last Council, some figures were placed before the members by Mr. Mitter, which demonstrate the absolute lack of doctors in the rural areas in Bengal. Let me give those figures to the Council. There are altogether 3,000 registered medical practitioners in Bengal. Of this number about 2,000 practise in municipal areas and the rest in rural areas, where 42 millions of our population live. So that there is one doctor in the rural areas for about 42,000 inhabitants. These figures tell their own tale. It is useless to comment on them. But I may, by way of contrast to these figures, mention the fact that whereas in Bengal in the rural areas there is one doctor for about 42,000 inhabitants, in England there is a qualified medical practitioner for 1,200 or a little more of the population. Then, Sir, the vital statistics of the province disclose the depressing fact that the number of deaths exceed the number of births. In answer to unstarred question No. 61, Government, in course of their reply, gave certain figures on the 14th March last, which show that in 24 out of 26 districts in Bengal the population is diminishing on account of the excess of deaths over births. This is a very alarming state of affairs. One of the causes of excess of deaths over births undoubtedly is, that people are unable to get any medical relief when they are ill. Many cases of illness prove fatal on account of want of medical assistance. Sir, the want of medical relief in the rural areas was brought home to me most vividly during my electioneering campaign in the Diamond Harbour subdivision of 24-Parganas. There are villages where it is impossible to get even a quack. Here and there one comes across a kaviraj or a homœopathist but generally, in the villages, I found it was impossible to get any medical assistance. Now, Sir, I am bound to say that the response of Government so far to our

demand for doctors for rural areas has been very disappointing indeed. It is true that in the Imperial Legislative Council Dr. M. N. Banerjee's resolution was accepted by Government. But as yet it appears that nothing has been done to give effect to that resolution. As I have said, the question of providing more doctors for the villages was also raised in the last Bengal Legislative Council, and in answer to the demand made by several non-official members, Sir Henry Wheeler used very guarded language and said that although Government were in sympathy with the desirability of affording additional facilities for medical education, it was not wise to be carried away by the appreciation of the medical needs of the country. Sir, I quite appreciate the necessity of using careful and guarded language by a Member of Government, but I confess that reading Sir Henry Wheeler's speech in the last Council on the 13th March, 1919, I felt that there was a limit even to caution on the part of Government. Sir, in the face of the staggering facts that I have placed before the Council regarding the high rate of mortality in the province and the absolute lack of medical men in the villages, is it wise, is it humane, is it even prudent on the part of any Government to refuse to accede to the demand of the people for doctors adequate enough for the requirements of rural areas? What I complain most is that Government have no definite medical policy. I venture to think that Government should seriously consider the advisability of adopting a medical policy which will aim on the one hand at producing a comparatively limited number of highly trained doctors for Calcutta and other big towns in Bengal, where they will be able not only to pick up a lucrative practice, but also to investigate into the causes and remedies of diseases that are yet baffling medical science, and, on the other hand, training large numbers of medical practitioners intended for the rural areas. Such medical practitioners will have as their training the ordinary course of medical education and a special knowledge of treatment of diseases which are prevalent in the villages, namely, malaria, kala-azar, cholera, dysentery and small-pox.

That, in short, is the medical policy that I urge Government to adopt. I leave it to Government to decide whether the training that they will give to men who, it is intended, will practise in the rural areas, should be in English or in the vernacular, as was suggested by Dr. M. N. Banerjee. That is a question upon which I should not like to dogmatise. It must, of course, be decided by expert opinion. But I submit I am entitled to ask that the Government should without delay adopt a policy which will meet the pressing medical needs of our villages and pursue such policy with great vigour and resolution. Sir, I feel so keenly on this question, that if I had the Archangel's trumpet, the blast of which could startle the living of all nations, I would sound it in the ears of Members of Government and say: "Doctors, more doctors, and ever more doctors for the villages in Bengal."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: I propose that the words "medical practitioners" be substituted for the word "doctors."

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I have no objection to accept the member's amendment.

The PRESIDENT: The debate will now proceed on the resolution as amended.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I am very glad to be able to support the resolution moved by my friend, Mr. D. C. Ghose. Times out of number it has been fully demonstrated before this Council that if there is anything needful, needful for our very existence and the continuity of the people, that is medical assistance. The facts and figures which have been quoted by my friend and the answers obtained by questions from Government will go to show that the figure is not 22,000 but 44,000 per one qualified doctor.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: That is what I said.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I beg your pardon.

When Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur moved his first resolution about having one or two doctors in every thana, there was a full discussion about this matter and the Government reply was that there was such a paucity of medical practitioners that even if Government could finance the proposal and the District Board or Municipality were to share in the financing, still from the very fact that there were not sufficient number of doctors, this laudable proposal of the Rai Bahadur could not really be realised in practice. I for myself could not imagine that the material progress of the country was so much neglected for so many years under such an enlightened Government that at this day we find there are no qualified medical practitioners there being only one for about half a lakh of persons in India, while there is one for 1,200 persons in England. That being so, the first thing that is needful is to establish medical institutions. We are not very much ambitious to have colleges, but would be content with institutions like the Campbell Medical School in different places which might supply us with a sufficient number of qualified medical practitioners.

I am very sorry to refer to one thing. When I referred to this matter in my Budget speech, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea wanted to know whether we had sufficient local patriotism so that Government might come forward for the purpose of helping in starting medical schools. I for myself could not really understand the morality of that sort of statement. Is local patriotism to be interpreted by the amount of money that could be put in by way of contributions from the locality? If it is intended that only those places which are rich enough to raise a certain amount of money will have Government help,

I should draw the attention of the members of the Council that this sho not be so. The poorer a place is, the less they can assist or help the selves, and I believe the Government should more readily come forwa to give more assistance to those people. That is my plea for establi ing such schools in distant places like Chittagong, Rajshahi, and ot similar localities. Burdwan has got its Government medical insti tion, though Burdwan has got its big zamindars, Rajas and Maharaj and Burdwan is within one hour's journey by train from Calcutta. any serious case occurs, one can manage to come down to Calcutta a can get the best possible medical aid. What about those places fr where people cannot come to Calcutta within 48 hours? Is Governme so very oblivious that they really forget that those places, because th distance is great, are not within their regime? That being so, I heart support this resolution of Mr. D. C. Ghose who, with his usual you ful energy and liberality of heart, has really understood the positi and wants to have equal treatment meted out throughout the provi and wants to have such schools throughout all places.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: I rise to give my hea support to this resolution. As a representative of one of the poorest a most backward districts of Bengal, the district of Bankura, I want mention to this House that there are vast tracts in the district wh there is absolutely no doctor, not even a compounder, to render medi help to the poor people. There are other fortunate parts of the dist where there is some kind of medical help available and the doct there are qualified in this way. Some of them work as compound in some dispensaries of some quacks for only a few months and then co back and practise as doctors and command extensive practice. Th are other tracts of the country which are more fortunate in getting homo pathic practitioners whose mode of treatment is peculiar. They do know English. They find advertisments in the vernacular pap that for a few rupees they can get a box of homœopathic medicine a also directions for their use. They send for these boxes, and when th boxes come, they find that the names of the medicines are not writ in the vernacular, but in English. When they want to administer th medicines, what they do is this. They open their box, shut their ey take the name of God, put their fingers into the box and take out t medicine that comes first and administer it to their patients. Th know that no harm would be done to the poor patients by taking th medicines. That is the way they treat and these are the various kin of medical help which the majority of our people get. Therefore, t demand for medical help, particularly in the district of Bankura, very great. With these words, I ask this Council to see that th resolution is carried.

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: I rise to oppose t motion. The proposal before the House is a titanic one. With feel purse and without practical training, the attempt to realise the colos

result would be futile, especially in these days, when we feel the dearth of proper medical practitioners. I want that the House will survey the proposal with the eye of a critic, as on the very surface of it, it is a very interesting one, as on the very face of it we are likely to be convinced that it is a very useful proposal. I oppose the motion not because that I do not appreciate the benevolent merit of the motion, but I oppose it on the ground of its impracticability. Bengal is a province of villages, the number of which is a very large one. To provide all the village medical practitioners with medical schools, we have to start a large number of schools, and these again need to be manned by proper medical instructors. Supposing for the moment that we are financially able to launch so large a scheme, but will it be practicable for us to procure so many instructors at once? Again we have to look to the other side of the matter—who will be the village doctors? To learn medicine a certain amount of literacy is needed, a certain amount of general attainment must be the sure mark to qualify one to study medicine. The general standard of literacy cannot be raised in a day. People cannot be taught to quality in medicine easily. My friend, Syed Emdadul Haq, perhaps recognised this fact and that is why he wants to substitute "practitioners" for "doctors." We have already a large number of village practitioners, but I am sorry to say that most of them are quacks, innocent of the art of medicine and healing, whose votaries they profess themselves to be. These men administer medicine without any responsibility and they generally kill more patients than they cure. The ordinary standard of acquirements of village practitioners is already very low and their knowledge of medicine is generally nil. But we feel the necessity, I should not deny. We cannot undertake the proposal at once in these days of financial stringency, when we are always anxious of saving our national treasury from a financial crisis. I therefore think that if the motion be carried, it will lead us to further financial embarrassment, which we could have afforded to bear with, had there been a fine prospect; but when the prospect is doubtful and the measure itself seems to be impracticable, at least in these days, I think, it will be difficult and dangerous for us to commit further expenses for an impracticable scheme. I suggest that the existing circumstances be best improved if the Medical Board be asked to hold a proper examination for the existing village practitioners, or rather quacks, and grant licenses to the successful candidates with authority to practise. Some of the medical practitioners will be further empowered to keep pupils like the native kavirajs, who, after undergoing a certain practical and theoretical training at the hands of their instructors, will be allowed to appear at the examination of the Board and to qualify themselves for independent practice. This arrangement I think will increase the number of efficient practitioners without heavily taxing the national treasury. This is feasible, as the custom is already a native one.

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: I wish to support this resolution whole-heartedly. In the distant villages people are dying away in large numbers without medical aid, and any movement that is started for giving relief and medical aid to the villagers cannot but evoke whole-hearted support from all of us. But the thing is this. The mover has not suggested any practical means by which this end should be attained.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: That is the business of Government.

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: He says that is the business of Government, and I hope that the Government will find means of establishing schools wherever necessary. With these words, I beg to support this resolution.

Mr. S. M. BOSE: I whole-heartedly support this resolution. I think that there should be at least one medical school in each district of Bengal. For example, I think a medical school should be immediately started in, Mymensingh. There is a first class hospital, and a scheme for this school has been approved of by Government So, there is no reason why there should be any further delay at all There can be no question that in Bengal the number of doctors available is absolutely insufficient, so that during epidemics, like cholera and influenza, village people die without any medical aid. I think that money spent on this will be well spent and will result in untold benefit. Further, this money will be amply repaid in the increase of health, happiness and wealth of the people. With these few words, I support the resolution.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: It is an admitted fact that the number of qualified doctors in the mufassal is very limited It is also a fact that a number of people who practise medicine have no knowledge of the nature of the disease and do not know what medicine they should use, but I think that by supplementing their knowledge in medicine they can do a great deal of good to the country. Even now we find it very difficult to get qualified doctors to man the dispensaries. Recently the District Board of Pabna decided to appoint four subsidised doctors with an additional allowance to act as epidemic doctor, but I am sorry that up to date no more than two doctors have been found. In the mufassal there are many doctors who have got some knowledge of Bengali literature and, if properly trained, they can be of very great use in treating simple cases as for instance, malaria and other similar diseases. Of course, in the case of a complicated disease, people will have recourse to highly-qualified doctors, but in simple cases, which form by far the majority of cases, these village doctors will serve useful purposes. So if a committee be formed for examining the people who are already practising, and if they are found really qualified to understand the art of medicine, they can be trained up in suitable

centres; in that way these people will be of great use to the men in the mufassal. So I heartily support this resolution.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I am glad that for once at least I am able to support my young friend, Mr. D. C. Ghose. I am very glad to find that member after member has risen in his seat and supported the first resolution in this Council which was passed, namely the provision of doctors in the mufassal. Indeed this resolution of Mr. D. C. Ghose is a corollary to the first resolution which this Council, I must say to its glory, passed as its very first act. You must give employment to doctors and this resolution, if carried out, will give employment to many doctors, and when there is a demand there will be a supply by the proposed medical schools. These medical schools should teach a two years' course, as was the case previously in the Campbell and Dacca Medical Schools. The entrance qualification should not be higher than what it was before in the Campbell Medical School, and the cost should be proportionately less. In this way we can have cheap doctors and not otherwise. We cannot have doctors trained for six years in a medical college to go to the mufassal and work on a subsidy of Rs. 30 or Rs. 40 a month They won't go. They have got big ideas and large expectations. That will not do. We must have doctors who are able to treat malaria, cholera, and give saline injections and the like We do not want highly qualified doctors, but such doctors as will be able to give relief in cases of cholera, influenza and other such diseases, and to attend to ordinary surgical cases. We know that there are hundreds of cases where poor women die in labour without any medical help, and they do require such medical help. I do hope that the time will come when poor men and women will get some medical help in this country. If we cannot grant this help, I say that we shall be failing in our duty. I therefore support this resolution.

Maharaja Bahadur KSHAUNISH CHANDRA ROY: I beg to support this resolution whole-heartedly. This resolution hardly requires any speech. Every one of us spontaneously feels the necessity of qualified doctors in the mufassal. All that we can and do get at present in the mufassal is better known as *haturias* and *hakims*, and they should be taught how to impart medicine properly. It is for this that my friend Mr. D. C. Ghose, has brought this resolution before this Council. He has not, however, given us any idea as to the practical way of carrying the resolution into practice, but, with your permission, I should like to suggest that a Committee be appointed to go through this and to suggest how this resolution can be brought into effect. With these few words I support the resolution.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: On behalf of the Government, I desire to express my whole-hearted sympathy with the resolution which has been moved and also, with one exception, with

the various speeches to which we have listened this evening. This very question, somewhat on different lines, was discussed in the Imperial Legislative Council in March, 1916. To that discussion my hon'ble friend the mover referred in the course of his opening remarks. That discussion proceeded upon a resolution moved by Dr. M. N. Banerjee, now the respected Principal of the Belgachia School of Medicine. The resolution was accepted by the Government of India, subject to certain limitations, to which I need not refer, and it was sent down to the Government of Bengal for action. The Government of Bengal consulted their advisers and they came to the conclusion that they could not give effect to the resolution as it stood. I think in justice to the Government of Bengal, I ought to state that they consulted the Bengal State Medical Faculty, and the Bengal State Medical Faculty unanimously suggested that instead of medical education proceeding on vernacular lines, as recommended by the resolution of the Legislative Council of India, the medical education which would be helpful to Bengal should proceed upon the lines of the education imparted in the Campbell Medical School and the Dacca Medical School. The same view was expressed with a little less emphasis by the Bengal Council of Medical Registration and, what is even more important a more emphatic expression of the same view came from the Calcutta University Commission. The Commission said—I am quoting from their report—"We cannot endorse the view that a fresh scheme of vernacular medical education should be started." My hon'ble friend's motion steers clear of these difficulties. He does not suggest that the scheme of medical education which he recommends the Government to accept should proceed upon vernacular lines. It is altogether an open question with him. His complaint is that the Government has not a medical policy, and that expert opinion should be invited in order to formulate such a policy. Well, I am quite willing to invite expert opinion upon the lines of medical education that we have to follow in respect of the different districts, but I cannot plead guilty to the charge that Government has not formulated its policy. It has a medical policy, a wise, beneficent, merciful, and if I may be permitted to say so, an all-comprehensive medical policy, but the basis of that policy is money. We want medical schools. My friend said that if he had the blast of the Archangel he would blow it into the ear of the Minister and tell him: "Medical schools, more medical schools and medical schools for ever."

But if you are to have more medical schools grant us the money, and it is for this Council to vote us the money. If the Council will place us in possession of funds, I undertake to say, on behalf of the Government, that nothing will be wanting so far as persistency and completeness of organisation are concerned, to complete the scheme. This is the message which the members of this Council should communicate to their constituents, but it is for you to vote us funds. You hold the purse-strings of the nation. You have complete command over the funds at the disposal of

the Ministers, and unless you give us funds, how can we proceed in the matter of medical relief to which you have invited our attention. I propose therefore to accept this resolution and to appoint a committee to formulate such measures as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out the policy to which Government is committed.

Complaints have been made about medical institutions not being established here, there, and elsewhere. Well, the Burdwan Medical School will be opened in the course of this year. As regards Mymensingh—my friend has referred to this matter—negotiations are going on for the establishment of a medical school; at Jalpaiguri the case is similar.

I am afraid I am unable to give the same satisfactory answer as regards Chittagong, and my friend, Babu Annada Charan Dutta, seems to think that the claims of Chittagong are neglected by the Government. I will say, on behalf of Government, that we do not neglect the claims of any districts; we are prepared to treat them all on the same terms, of perfect equality, if there is local help forthcoming for the purpose of establishing these institutions. What is the state of things in England? We have borrowed the ideas of our free institutions from that great country; it is the local bodies who supply the sinews of war, and Parliament comes to their assistance when local bodies are no longer able to supply them. That is the English system; that is the system which has built up the great medical institutions of the United Kingdom. I am afraid you must make up your mind to follow that system. I must ask Babu Annada Charan Dutta to use his persuasive eloquence to move the people of Chittagong in order to come forward and loosen their purse-strings in aid of local medical relief, which is so urgently needed.

I do not think I need detain the Council further, except, to say that I have deep sympathy with the resolution, and it will be our constant aim to add to the scope of medical relief consistently with our resources.

That is all I have got to say in connection with the resolution which I accept.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I am glad that my resolution has received support from so many members of this Council, and I am still more glad that the Hon'ble Minister has expressed his whole-hearted sympathy with the object of this resolution. Before I deal with the speech of my friend, the Minister, I would like to refer to the speech of Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur.

I am sorry that he has thought fit to oppose this resolution. The criticism that he has levelled against it is that I have produced an impracticable scheme. Now, I cannot help thinking that my hon'ble friend did not do me the justice of hearing my remarks, for in my speech in moving the resolution I did not put forward any scheme impracticable or otherwise. I only placed before the Council some facts and figures to show the high rate of mortality in the province and the absolute lack of doctors in the rural areas, and I asked Government to formulate

a scheme, because I do think that it is the business of the Government, and not the business of the non-official members of this Council to formulate schemes, and place them before the Council.

Now my friend the Minister has said, that I have been wrong in saying that Government have not got a definite medical policy to suit the requirements of the rural areas. I may have been wrong, but I do think that it is difficult, if not impossible, to find any evidence of the existence of such a policy.

My hon'ble friend has said that he is willing to push forward any scheme that may be necessary to give effect to this resolution, if funds are forthcoming. I am certain, and I think, I can assure my hon'ble friend on behalf of all the non-official members of this Council that, if a suitable scheme for the purpose of giving effect to this resolution is placed before the Council, the non-official members, at any rate, will not hesitate to vote as much money as it is possible to vote for such an object.

The motion in the following amended form was put and agreed to:—
"This Council recommends to the Government that early measures be taken for the establishment of medical schools for the training of village medical practitioners."

The Council here adjourned for 15 minutes.

After the adjournment.

Agricultural Schools.

Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED: "This Council recommends to the Government that an agricultural school be opened at a suitable centre in each division, half the costs being borne by Government and the other half by District Boards of the division in proportion to their income."

This subject is so very important that I do not think that any lengthy speech on it is necessary. I have had occasions of drawing the attention of the House to the fact that we require a real enthusiastic set of workers in the agricultural districts—in the remotest corners of the districts—and show by practical results to the actual cultivators the best methods of ploughing and manuring their fields as well as the utility of other improved methods in connection with agriculture. And how can we do this? Unless we establish agricultural schools there is no hope of our getting the agriculturists to know all these; and it is only the schools that, by supplying the actual cultivators with the information they want, can train them in their profession of cultivation. This work, if successful, is sure to be imitated by others. One effect of the establishment of primary schools in the rural districts has been that most of the pupils who are themselves boys of agriculturists have come to neglect their own profession; the primary schools have produced a body of men who have failed to go beyond the primary stages

and finding no other suitable means of employment have taken to touting and creating village faction and guiling simple village folk. In order to provide the boys of the cultivators with practical training, it has been the policy of Government to set apart at least 1½ bighas of land attached to the lower primary schools, so that boys may learn the use of implements and tools with which they have to work in later life. But it is a pity that these boys should be trained by teachers who have no knowledge of practical agriculture. These teachers are trained in *guru*-training schools where there is no provision for practical education in agriculture. So is it not idle to expect that the boys should be benefited by the instruction as imparted therein?

Should it not be far better to open new agricultural schools at suitable centres of every division in Bengal and send a few peasant *gurus* from every village to get their practical training there? It will also attract men interested in agriculture and do a lot of good to the country by giving practical training to the boys.

If the teachers are properly trained they may become district agricultural officers, and if the Deputy Directors of Agriculture condescend to help them, I am sure they will be able to cultivate the land which is attached to the schools with advantage not only to themselves, but also will be encouraging the sons of the cultivators to take to agriculture. In fact, if these methods are taken to, I am sure in every district, in a very short time, we shall have a network of agricultural schools, which though modest, will be sufficient for the purposes of practical training to the villagers who want it most of all.

While on the subject I wish to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the price of food-stuffs has gone up very high. The other day we passed a resolution prohibiting the export of rice to foreign countries. This may be a temporary measure, but I think the House will agree with me when I say that the only way to remedy this evil is to get up better outturns from the yield of fields, and unless agriculturists are regularly trained to the use of implements and encouraged to take up the profession of cultivation, which is hereditary to them, you cannot hope for better yields from their fields. I am sure that if we can provide this lesson of cultivation by means of teachers who take instructions in these schools, then they can select their own seeds, their own manures, without having to depend for external help, and it is only in this way that the outturn of crops will be greater and improved. I do not think I need take much longer time to recommend this subject; but with regard to the means also, I would like to suggest that if the Government cannot bear the whole cost, let them bear at least half the cost, and the District Boards in the Division may be called upon to find the other half. Section 100 of the Self-Government Act says that District Boards can spend money on certain measures for the improvement of agriculture, and, if Government will take the initiative, many District

Boards will come forward, if not to give them recurring expenditure, at least to grant a fixed sum of money for scholarships and take an interest in these institutions. With these words I beg to commend the resolution to the acceptance of the Council.

The PRESIDENT: I think it would be convenient now to call upon Babu Amulya Dhone Addy to move the resolution which stands in his name (No. 36).

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: "This Council recommends to the Government that an agricultural school, with an experimental farm attached to it, be established and maintained in every district of Bengal."

Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED: May I be permitted to say a word. This cannot be an amendment. It is a motion that stands in his name. It may have the effect of some kind of amendment to my resolution, but it asks for something more than my motion.

The PRESIDENT: It is not an amendment, but an original motion somewhat analogous to yours.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I thank you for your kind permission to move this resolution. We all complain of the high price of food-grains in Bengal, and we are all under the impression—and I must say under a false impression—that heavy quantities of these food-grains are allowed to be exported, and that is the reason for the high price. I beg to submit that this is not a fact, as we have found that the total quantity of food-grains exported from India to foreign countries is not more than 5 per cent. and, even in the case of wheat, it is not more than 20 per cent. of the outturn; but if we exclude Burma in the case of rice, it is not more than 2½ per cent. and, if we exclude the Punjab in the case of wheat, it is not more than 3 per cent. What is then the reason for the high price of food-grains? I find, however, that the outturn of food-grains in Bengal is much lower than that in the other provinces of India and much lower than Japan and other civilised countries of the world. What is the reason? Is it due to the fact, as alleged, that the soil of Bengal is not so fertile as that of the other countries I beg to submit, it is not a fact. On the contrary, I would say that the soil of Bengal is more fertile than that of any other country in the world, especially Japan and the United States of America.

As regards outturn, I may state that the average yield per acre of wheat in the Bombay Presidency and the United Provinces, as will appear from the report of the Indian Industrial Commission, was 1,250 lbs. in a certain year, but in the United Kingdom in the same year, it was 1,973 lbs. per acre; in Belgium 2,174 lbs. and in Denmark it was 2,526 lbs. per acre. Similarly in the same year in the case of barley, the average yield per acre in the United Provinces was 1,300 lbs. in the United Kingdom 2,105 lbs. and in Belgium it was 2,953 lbs.

Then in the case of rice—the average yield of rice per acre is only one-half of what it is in Japan. What is the reason, though the soil of Bengal is more fertile than that of other countries and though the export of food-grains is not even more than 5 per cent? What is the reason for this nominal outturn of food-grains in Bengal? I beg to submit that it is due to want of agricultural education in Bengal. We find in the administration reports of Japan that there are agricultural schools in every village, or group of villages in Japan. We also find that in every village or group of villages in the United States of America, there is an agricultural school with an experimental farm attached to it. We find this even in Germany and Austria.

But what do we find in Bengal? Practically nothing of the kind. It appears from the official reply which has been given to the question which I asked in this House on the 17th February last, that only in Dacca, in the month of January 1920, an agricultural school had been established, and it was proposed to establish one in Chinsura at an early date. So that, in the course of a few months, we shall have only two agricultural schools in the whole of Bengal. Is that enough? It may be said that there are a number of experimental farms established in Bengal. I admit that, and I thank the Government for them very much, but that is nothing; It is like the play of Hamlet without Hamlet! It is something like the battle of Kurukshetra without Sri Krishna!

Unless an agricultural school be established along with an experimental farm, we cannot fully utilise these experimental farms. I beg to submit that an agricultural school should not only be established in every division, but in every district of Bengal, and, in the course of time, in every group of villages there should be an agricultural school with an experimental farm. With these remarks I beg to submit my resolution before the Council. I do not mean that these schools should be established in the current year, but that they should be started as early as possible.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I am fully alive to the importance of agricultural education in this province. Government have already announced that it is their policy to aim at gradually establishing an agricultural farm in every district. They have opened an Agricultural Vernacular School at Dacca and a similar school has just been opened at Chinsura. We have agricultural farms in six districts and two others are being constructed. I am therefore prepared to accept the resolution moved by Babu Amulya Dhone Addy as expressing the policy which Government will follow, but I would suggest to him that he should bring it within the range of practical politics by recommending that Government should establish an agricultural farm in every district of Bengal and an agricultural school in every division.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I accept the amendment suggested by the Hon'ble the Minister.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: Progress must necessarily be slow. In the first place, a suitable type of schools has still to be evolved. The schools at Dacca and Chinsura are in the nature of an experiment, and modifications in their working may be shown by experience to be necessary. Secondly, the rate of progress must depend on the financial condition of the province.

I regret that I cannot accept the resolution moved by Maulvi Emaduddin Ahmed. From what I have said he will see that I have every sympathy with his desire to see an extension of agricultural education in the province. But I cannot accept that part of his resolution relating to District Boards. Government are anxious to secure the co-operation of local bodies in these matters. But it is not in a position to lay down that each District Board in a division must bear a share in the cost proportionate to its income. To do so would be an infringement of the principles of local self-government. I would refer the mover to the important resolution on local self-government issued by the Government of India in 1918. Therein it is laid down that the practice of requiring local bodies to devote fixed portions of their revenue to particular objects of expenditure should be done away with as unduly limiting their freedom of action. It would be a retrograde step if Government were to attempt to force on District Boards the contribution of fixed sums for the establishment and maintenance of these schools. I do not think that it would be possible to secure unanimity among all the District Boards of a division, and in practice Government would have to put pressure on them to secure the contributions. On this ground I must oppose the resolution as it stands. If, however, Maulvi Emaduddin Ahmed will omit the last portion of his resolution from the words "half the costs being borne by Government" down to the end, then I am prepared to accept his resolution as amended.

Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED: I accept the modification suggested by the Hon'ble Minister and I would omit the words "half the costs . . . income."

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: So far as my resolution is concerned I have already said I accept the amendment suggested by the Hon'ble the Minister and I am thankful to him for his kind consideration.

The PRESIDENT: The resolution which has been moved by Babu Amulya Dhone Addy may be taken as an amendment to the resolution moved by Maulvi Emaduddin Ahmed. I would put first the resolution moved by Maulvi Emaduddin Ahmed with the modification suggested by the Hon'ble the Minister and accepted by the mover. I do not know,

however, that those who wanted to speak still desire to speak now that the resolution has been accepted by the Hon'ble the Minister with some modification.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: The resolution which has been moved by my friend, Babu Amulya Dhone Addy, before its acceptance by the Hon'ble the Minister, appeared to me to be very modest; and my regret was that it did not go far enough. Now that the Hon'ble the Minister has been pleased to accept it with substantial modifications I do not propose to inflict a speech upon this Council. With these words I support the resolution as it now stands in a modified form

Colonel A. J. PUGH: I beg to move that the question be now put.

The motion that the question be now put was put and agreed to.

The resolution was then put in the following modified form and agreed to:—" This Council recommends to the Government that an agricultural school be opened at a suitable centre in each division and that experimental farms be established and maintained in every district"

Religious preachers for jails.

Khan Bahadur KHWAJA MOHAMED AZAM: " This Council recommends to the Government that religious preachers, Hindu and Mussalman, be appointed in every jail in Bengal, to preach to the convicts at regular intervals, as is the case in the Presidency Jail in Calcutta."

The resolution which stands against my name in to-day's agenda does not need many words to support it.

The object of imprisonment should not merely be to punish the offender, but also to prevent him from treading the path of temptation in future. This end can best be achieved by impressing on his mind the heinousness of his offence from the moral and religious points of view.

I understand that the system of organizing *Id* Prayer for Muhammadan convicts was first introduced in the Alipur Jail in the year 1918, and has since been a popular annual ceremony. Some three or four months ago, Friday prayers were introduced and immediately became popular. About two months ago, daily prayers at the prescribed hours were introduced and the Mussalman convicts took to them rather keenly. Preachers have also been invited from time to time to deliver sermons for the benefit of Muhammadan convicts at the Alipur Jail. From inquiries I have made, I am glad to learn that the system has worked well and has in no way interfered with their work.

Nothing has yet been done for the benefit of Hindu convicts; there were difficulties in the way perhaps, but when the system has been found to be such a success among Muhammadan prisoners, I do not see why it is not possible to do something for their Hindu brethren with equal

success. The Alipur experiment deserves a trial at other jails in Bengal, and I hope that this Council will agree with me in this matter. With these few words, I beg to commend the resolution to the acceptance of the Council.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I am glad to be able to accept this resolution in principle. As a matter of fact, the Indian Jails Committee have made a recommendation similar to the proposal made by the Khan Bahadur. As the members of this Council may know, it is under the consideration of Government how best to introduce, as far as possible, the reformatory principle in the Jail administration; and every endeavour will undoubtedly be made to give effect to this principle. It has been recognised for a long time that it does help in reforming the prisoners if religious instructions are given to them. Hitherto, the Government has been eager to avail themselves of the services of such gentlemen as have volunteered to give religious instructions for the benefit of the prisoners; but, unfortunately, not many men have come forward to render such services. But we have been able to get a good man for the Presidency Jail. As regards some of the other jails, such men have not been forthcoming. But the question is one of considerable importance; it is under the consideration of the Government of India and of this Government; and I can assure the mover of this resolution that the object he has in view has every sympathy of the Government and that every effort will be made to give the matter the most favourable consideration possible. As the Jails Committee's report is being considered by the Government of India as well as by this Government, I do not think that the Council will expect me at present to say anything further on the subject. As I have already said, I accept the principle underlying this resolution.

Khan Bahadur KHWAJA MOHAMED AZAM: As the Hon'ble Member in charge has accepted my resolution in principle, I beg leave to withdraw it.

The resolution was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Municipal Dairy Farms, etc.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: "This Council recommends to the Government that section 14 of the Calcutta Municipal Act be amended, so that the Corporation of Calcutta may be authorised to provide for—

(*a*) the establishment of municipal dairy farms and milk depôts, the leasing of lands acquired by the Corporation under this Act, for the purpose of establishing private dairies, whether in or outside Calcutta, and the transport of milk to Calcutta from any municipal or private dairy farm or milk depôt;

(*b*) the purchase and maintenance of stud-bulls, and such other measures as may appear to the Corporation to be desirable with a view to improve the local breed of cattle; and

(*c*) the establishment of municipal grazing-grounds and the subsidisation, by such means as may appear desirable to the Corporation, of privately-owned grazing-grounds, whether in or outside Calcutta."

I admit that this has already been embodied in section 14 of the Calcutta Municipal Bill, and I also admit that this Bill is going to be introduced in this Council next session. I beg to submit that this part of legislation is the most urgent one and that no time should be lost in authorising the Calcutta Corporation to provide for pasture-grounds. In connection with the milk-supply of Calcutta, we all know how dear it is, and that is the reason why the Calcutta Corporation appointed a special Committee with a view to increase the supply of cows' milk, not to speak of pure milk in Calcutta. That committee made an inquiry into the present state of things, appointed an expert officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Matson, and accepted the report of that expert. The expert recommended to the Corporation to have a pasture-ground at a short distance from Calcutta; but I am sorry to state that although the Corporation have accepted that report, the Solicitor to the Corporation has expressed the opinion that, under the law as it stands, the Calcutta Corporation cannot incur any expenditure; and that is the reason why the Calcutta Corporation has unanimously recommended that Government should take up this as a special and urgent legislation. With these words I commend this resolution, and I hope and trust that Government will be pleased to take it up as an emergency legislation, so that the Corporation of Calcutta may be authorised to incur the expenditure required for providing a pasture-ground.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: The amendments embodied in this resolution find a place, as the mover has pointed out, in the Emergency Bill, which the Calcutta Corporation has submitted for the acceptance of Government. We have considered that Bill very carefully, and we have decided to include it in the larger amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act. It will be my duty to move the introduction of that Bill as early as I can. I was in hopes of introducing the Bill in July next, but I am afraid that that expectation may not be realised. In any case, it will be my earnest endeavour to introduce the Calcutta Municipal Bill as early as I can; and these provisions will find a place in that Bill; and the Council will have the opportunity of discussing them. We all recognise the importance of the supply of pure milk; we also recognise the importance of the provisions which the Calcutta Corporation seeks to insert in the interests of pure food and of pure milk. But, as I have said, we have decided that this Bill—the emergent Bill—should form part of the larger

Bill—the Calcutta Municipal Bill; and therefore I accept the resolution, subject to one small modification. The mover recommends that these provisions should form part of section 14 of the Calcutta Municipal Bill; but of course, as the sections will be renumbered in the larger Bill, the section in question may not be number "14;" and that part of the resolution will have to be omitted. With this modification, I accept the resolution.

The PRESIDENT: The resolution in the modified form runs as follows:—"This Council recommends to the Government that the Calcutta Municipal Act be amended so that the Corporation of Calcutta may be authorised to provide for—

(*a*) the establishment of municipal dairy farms and milk depôts, the leasing of lands acquired by the Corporation under this Act, for the purpose of establishing private dairies, whether in or outside Calcutta, and the transport of milk to Calcutta from any municipal or private dairy farm or milk depôt,

(*b*) the purchase and maintenance of stud-bulls, and such other measures as may appear to the Corporation to be desirable with a view to improve the local breed of cattle; and

(*c*) the establishment of municipal grazing-grounds and the subsidisation, by such means as may appear desirable to the Corporation, of privately-owned grazing-grounds, whether in or outside Calcutta."

The above motion was put and agreed to.

The PRESIDENT: I may inform the Council that in pursuance of a statement I made in the beginning of this session, I have constituted a committee to consider the allotment of seats in the Council Chamber. The committee consists of myself as the President, the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr, Mr. Walsh, Babu Surendra Nath Ray, Mr. Watson-Smyth, Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M. Afzal, Mr. S. M. Bose, Babu Annada Charan Dutta, Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir Ali and Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri. The first meeting of the committee will be held at 11 o'clock on Wednesday, the 6th April.

Adjournment.

The Council was adjourned to 3 o'clock on Tuesday, the 5th April, 1921, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

roceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council assembled at 3 P.M. on Tuesday, the 5th April, 1926, the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Members of the xecutive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 106 nominated id elected members.

Resolutions

inder the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest).

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): rder! Order! Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri.

Judicial and executive functions.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "This Council recomends to the Government that early steps be taken for the total paration of the judicial from the executive functions in the adminisation of this Presidency."

At the ouset I may be permitted to refer to the proceedings of the nperial Council. Recently Mr. Bhugri, I believe, brought up the atter before the Council of State, and Sir William Vincent, on bealf of Government, stated that the matter was now a provincial one his is what he is reported to have said: "The Government will meet e Hon'ble Member as far as possible, and I hope that the following ndertaking will satisfy him. The matter is a provincial one, but if y local Government decide to take this question of separating the dicial from the executive functions, the matter is one for them, the overnment of India would raise no objection and will proceed to make ch legislative changes as may be necessary to give effect to the proosal of the local Government. We are not, however, prepared at is juncture to interfere in any way with the discretion of the local Govnment in a matter which is one of purely provincial administration." the debate Sir William Vincent referred to the question as debated the Madras Legislative Council. He said that it was rejected and e read a telegram to that effect. I see, however, in a local paper, the *itizen* of the 24th February last, that the amendment was rejected nd the main resolution was carried by 45 against 33. Probably this is mistake, because Sir William Vincent referred to a telegram to the ffect that the motion was defeated by 45 to 33. However Mr. Shastri ointed out that in Madras the question was somewhat different,

because there the question between Brahmins and non-Brahmins was very great and the two communities were not pulling well. Therefore, that should not be the guide for other provinces; and as far as I have been able to gather, this question was also raised in the United Provinces Council, and a Committee has been appointed there to consider the matter. The Government reply given in the Council of State was therefore favourable and assured that, if any local Government wishes to introduce the matter, any legal help that might be necessary by amending the law would be given.

The question, I may be permitted to say, is not a new one. It has been discussed at some length on various platforms, in Legislative Councils, on Congress platforms and in Government replies given at the time of the debate. It has also been discussed in several reports and in several pamphlets on the subject. I may, however, be permitted to give a short history of the question, and I am indebted for that history to the excellent treatise on the subject published by the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter. The East India Company began by taking the grant of *Dewani* from the Emperor of Delhi in 1765, and the administration of criminal justice was left in the hands of the officers of the Nawab Nazim of Bengal. The two functions were combined, I believe, in 1887. Sir John Shore remarked that the people were accustomed to a despotic authority, and naturally they looked to one master, and upon that view he thought that there should be a "one-man rule" introduced. Lord Cornwallis, however, very soon after taking up the Governorship, thought that the two functions should not be confined to the same hand. He thought that the result of the combination would be a sacrifice of the interests of the administration of justice to the physical interests of the Government, and he was able to pass Regulation II of 1793 and, as a result, the Collector was deprived of judicial power. This state of things continued for nearly 30 years and again the union of the two functions was effected gradually by the year 1821-22. Lord Auckland, with the consent of the Court of Directors, again effected a separation. But in 1859 both these functions were again united as a temporary measure only. The Police Commission, composed of men of ripe experience regarding Police administration, stated in their report in 1860 that, as a rule, there should be a complete severance of the executive police from the judicial authority and that the officials who might be in any way connected with the prosecution of any offence or the collection of evidence should never sit in judgment, not even with a view to committal for trial before a higher tribunal. When Act V of 1861 was enacted it was distinctly stated in the course of the debate that the combination of the two functions should be a temporary measure only. Unfortunately, when the Criminal Procedure Code was enacted in 1872, the fate of the controversy was sealed under the guidance of Sir James Fitz James Stephen, I believe, and the evils of the reactionary measures are being perpetuated even now, though many

attempts have been made to remedy the evils. In the *Imperial Gazetteer* I see it stated that the people are accustomed to "one-man-rule" from a very great antiquity. There it is stated that the unit of British Indian administration is the district, and the chief executive officer is the Collector-Magistrate or the Deputy Commissioner. In his executive capacity this officer is charged with the collection of various branches of revenue and at the same time he is the chief local Magistrate. It is also remarked that the union is one to which the people of India are well accustomed, for it has existed from time immemorial in the east, and separation of the two functions is the rule only in the most advanced western communities. Sir, I have got with me the Manu Sanghita, and the Muhammadan Jurisprudence edited by the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim. Criminal administration is dealt with in Manu in Chapter VII, and in Chapter VIII the judicial works have been described. It is stated there that the two are quite separate. For judicial administration the Brahmins were appointed and, with their advice, the judiciary was managed, but for the executive work they were not entrusted with any part of the duty—there were other persons for it. I need not take much time of the Council on this subject, but I can safely assert that it is a mistake to say that in ancient India there was "one-man rule" in vogue. In Chapter VIII of the Manu Sanghita it will be seen how the thieves are to be dealt with in the judiciary under the management of the Brahmins and Chapter VII describes how thefts are to be investigated by a different organisation. I may refer to another book. Dr. Pramotho Nath Banerji, in his book on the public administration in ancient India, says that the administration of justice was kept separate from the executive function of the State, and no interference with the judicial business by the executive was permitted. According to Muhammadan law again, the judiciary was managed by the *kazis*, according to the teachings of the *Koran*, and "the administration of Justice must be above the suspicion of subservience to the executive"—to quote from page 27 of Sir Abd-ur-Rahim's book on Muhammadan jurisprudence. I have already shown that Sir John Shore thought—on what authority I do not know—that the Indians were accustomed from a long antiquity to look to "one-man rule." To my mind this "one-man rule" is certainly based upon prestige theory, it being ultimately enacted by the Criminal Procedure of 1872. Sir, it did, as it was bound to, create serious dissatisfaction throughout India. The late Mr. R. C. Dutt published in 1893 an excellent pamphlet on the subject showing how the separation of the two functions could be easily effected. The question also arose in the House of Lords in the year 1893; and Lord Kimberley, the then Secretary of State for India, and Lord Cross expressed in clear terms their approval of the separation of the two functions. Lord Dufferin, referring to the resolution of the Indian National Congress on the subject, characterised it as a "counsel of perfection." In 1896, the late

Mr. Manmohan Ghose brought out a pamphlet in which he collected some 20 typical cases demonstrating the evils of the present system. By the exertions of the two Indian gentlemen the matter was kept before the public both here and in England. At last a memorial was submitted to the Secretary of State on July 1st, 1899, by some noble-minded Englishmen. That memorial has been published in Mr. P. C. Mitter's book. It is signed by several eminent gentlemen having ripe experience of the nature of administration of justice in India. Those gentlemen were Sir Richard Garth, Sir Charles Hobhouse, Sir John Budd Phear, John Scott, Sir William Wedderburn, Herbert J Reynolds and others. In 1905, the late Mr. Gokhale supported the movement in the Supreme Council. He said that there was, for instance, "the separation of judicial and executive functions to be effected, a reform demanded by eminent Anglo-Indians as well as Indians, which Lord Dufferin described as a 'counsel of perfection' and which he said could not be carried out then for want of funds." Well, the Government now have funds to carry out the reform many times over and I respectfully submit, it ought no longer to be delayed, as the sense of oppression and discontent to which it gives rise is infinitely more serious than any administrative convenience which may result from it. In 1907, the late Sir Rash Behari Ghose also supported it in the Supreme Council He wanted to point out "one more serious blot in the administration of justice, viz., the placing of the judicial and executive functions in the same public servant." Then in 1908 Sir Harvey Adamson sketched out a rough scheme in the Supreme Legislative Council. He said that the Government of India had decided to advance cautiously and tentatively towards the separation of judicial and executive functions, and in those parts of India where local conditions rendered that change possible and appropriate an experiment might be made. It might be a costly one, but the object was a worthy one. It had been consistently pressed upon them by public opinion in India He had discussed the question with Indian gentlemen like the Maharaja of Darbhanga and Mr. Gokhale, and they were of opinion, which coincided with his own, that the advance should be tentative and that a commencement should be made in Bengal, especially in Eastern Bengal, because it was in Bengal that the cry of separation first began and that the cry of separation between the police and magistracy was most pressing.

Sir, whatever may be the case in other provinces, I am certain that I can base my demand upon this assertion that in Bengal the reform should be introduced without delay.

In 1912, Sir Sankaran Nair, His Excellency Lord Sinha, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea and several others deposed before the Public Services Commission and they all submitted that this reform was an urgent one and should be introduced

without delay. If I am permitted, I would like to refer to the statement made in the dissentient note of the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim in the Report of the Public Services Commission He says: " It most frequently happens in criminal matters that the native——

[Here the member reached the time limit and he was allowed two minutes more to finish his remarks.]

" There is another case that has materially contributed to the unsatisfactory state of administration of justice in criminal matters, namely, the combination of judicial and executive functions in the present organisation of the Civil Service." He dealt with the matter in detail and supported the movement, saying that it should be separated as early as possible. The Hon'ble Mr P. C. Mitter, in his excellent treatise on the subject, has also supported the movement and he has submitted a scheme in it which shows that the matter need not be very costly; if the separation is to take place it can be very easily done by dividing the executive branch into two portions—one to be under the executive Government and another under the direction of the High Court and the District Judges. Some of the Deputy Magistrates may be specially engaged in doing judicial work only.

The angle of vision has changed and a beginning of responsible government has been introduced. The state of things which existed at the time of Sir John Shore does no longer exist. We have got the Lord Chief Justice of England as our Viceroy and the Public Services Commission, which included His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay, also in a manner supported the movement and, though they avoided saying anything special, they were not against the introduction of the reform. Under these circumstances I think my demand is a very reasonable one and no time should be lost in giving effect to this much-needed reform.

The PRESIDENT: Items 14 and 15 are identical and they need not be moved separately. I now call upon Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt to move his amendment.

Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: I beg to move, by way of amendment, that the following be added at the end, viz :—

" That the said separation be effected in consonance with the following principles :—

(1) officers appointed to perform executive duties in no case to perform judicial duties and *vice versâ*,

(2) officers appointed to perform judicial duties to be in no way subordinate to executive officers;

(3) the entire control and management of criminal judicial service, including the powers of promotion, transfer and punishment of judicial officers, be vested in the High Court."

At the outset let me say that I think it is a pity that this resolution should have been moved to-day. It involves a matter of such great importance that it should have been postponed to the following session. We have been fairly hard-worked and we shall be glad to have a holiday. We have hardly had time to give this matter the consideration it deserves and most people feel that such an intricate and important subject deserves greater attention than we can give it to-day. The matter is just as important to-day as it was when first broached, and I feel that a mere resolution asking Government to take early steps to give effect to the desired separation is not very useful. I should have thought that some of the members of the Council would have proposed a concrete scheme of separation. There are a number of schemes before us; the first scheme is that of the late Mr. R. C. Dutt, which was published as early as 1893; then there is a skeleton scheme which was put forward by Sir Harvey Adamson in 1908, and lastly, there is the scheme that was conceived by the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter in 1913. These schemes possess very valuable materials for help, but I do not know that any of these schemes can be applied to-day by reason of circumstances having changed. Therefore, it would have been very much better if, instead of moving the resolution to-day, we had taken three or four months' time to construct a new scheme and put forward that scheme for the acceptance of Government. Anyhow, since the hon'ble mover thought fit to move this resolution I had no other option but to put in an amendment and include in it a number of important principles. I desire to deal with these principles one by one. But, before doing so, let me shortly state what the evils of the present system are. The District Magistrate, as everyone knows, wields very large powers. He is the head of the police, he is also the head revenue officer and he does a considerable amount of judicial work. Now, as head of the police, he has got to suppress crime. Supposing a dacoity takes place, it is possible that he may have to go to the spot, hold a local enquiry, possibly record a confession or two, and then get the police to commence an investigation. They send him diaries day after day to inform him how the investigation is proceeding, and in other words the Magistrate sees to the building up of the case. The District Magistrate thereafter sends the case for trial to one of his subordinates, say a Deputy Magistrate. Now if it so happens that the District Magistrate takes more than an official interest in the case, the fact that he is keen upon a conviction is quickly noised about and the Deputy Magistrate who has to try the case immediately comes to know of it. There is a firm impression in the minds of Deputy Magistrates, right or wrong I do not know, that their prospects in the service depend upon the good-will of the District Magistrate; so that in a case in which the Magistrate takes a keen interest, the Deputy Magistrate is generally not in a position to exercise free judgment. A trial is held and a conviction is recorded. Now this state of things has got to be removed by a scheme of separation. The

vious suggestion is to divide up the Deputy Magistrates into two oups, that is to say a judicial group and an executive group. That what I have suggested. Let the judicial group only deal with judi-al matters and be placed directly under the District Judge Let it t be subordinate to the District Magistrate. The executive group, course, will remain subordinate to the District Magistrate A mere paration of functions will not be sufficient to remedy these evils. A paration of the services is essential. A scheme of separation of func-ons may be conceived which does not involve a separation of the ser-es. Thus in a small district a Deputy Magistrate may have to rform both judicial and executive work. When doing judicial work he ill be under the District Judge and when doing executive work he will under the Magistrate. But I beg to submit that such a separation, hich is only a separation of the functions, is not useful, because so ng as an individual remains under the influence of the District Magis-ate, even in judicial matters he will not be able to exercise free judg-ent Therefore a separation, not only of functions but also of the rvices, is necessary, and a scheme providing for such separation has ot to be framed.

The last suggestion I make in my amendment is that the entire ontrol and management of the criminal judicial service, including the owers of promotion, transfer and punishment of judicial officers, be sted in the High Court. If my suggestion is accepted, and a separa-on is effected in the services; in other words if the present subordinate ervice is divided up into judicial and executive groups and the judi-al group is placed under the District Judge, it follows as a corollary at the control of that department should rest with the High Court d not with the executive. This is absolutely necessary. The High ourt besides is in a much better position to judge of the comparative erits of individuals, because the High Court does a great deal of iminal work whereas the Chief Secretary has got to rely entirely upon e reports sent by District Magistrates as to the capacity and ability subordinate officers. Therefore I say that the judicial officers should e placed exactly on the same footing as Munsifs. We know as a atter of fact that Munsifs generally are reputed to be very indepen-ent, and I think that judicial officers doing criminal work, if they re placed under the High Court, will attain that independence

Lastly, if you desire to remove the executive influence, it is abso-itely essential that matters like the transfer, leave, promotion and unishment of subordinate officers should be left with the High Court. he impression to-day exists amongst these officers that if they want to et on in their service they must act according to the wishes of the District Magistrate, and I think that impression will still continue in pite of any separation that may be effected unless these men in the udicial service are placed under the High Court.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: "This Council recommends to the Government that the separation of the judicial and the executive functions in the administration should be carried out without any delay, if possible by dividing the members of the provincial service into two classes of Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, the former exercising only judicial powers in criminal cases and the appellate powers of the Magistrate being exercised by senior Deputy Magistrates from whom Assistant Sessions Judges and Sessions Judges should be partly recruited."

I only beg to add the words "Joint Magistrates and Senior Deputy Magistrates." The evils of the present system have been described by my two predecessors and I need not dilate on them. They are admitted by everybody, but there is an element of doubt and suspicion in it which must be mentioned. It is said that the separation would entail large increase in expenditure. I do not believe it. The proposals that I make in my resolution which are identical with the original resolution make it clear that there will be no additional expenditure, but the real question is not expenditure—the real question is the prestige of the District Officer. I fully appreciate that the District Magistrate should have great prestige to enable him to keep the disorderly elements of his district in order. It is therefore necessary that he should have certain powers for dealing with cases under sections 107 and 145 and certain other penal powers in criminal cases. I am not willing to derogate in the least from the prestige of the District Magistrate. That is the most serious question in this matter, that the prestige and powers of the District Magistrate should not be diminished, but consistently with that this division can yet be made. What I propose is this. There are many districts now in which the District Magistrates should remain the head of the district, but their powers for dealing with cases under sections 107 and 145 should be vested in either a European Joint Magistrate or a Senior Deputy Magistrate. In most cases there will be European Joint Magistrate, but in many districts the Senior Deputy Magistrate will exercise these powers. Even now, if the District Magistrate can be an Indian, there can be no objection to the Senior Deputy Magistrate exercising these powers. Therefore, I say that the division should be so made that the powers of the District Magistrate and of the Government should in no way be impaired, and I believe that it can be so divided that the powers of District Magistrates and of the executive Government would not be impaired. The British Government here have established a system of judiciary for ministering justice in a form of purity which was not known to India before, and I say that that purity of justice should be kept intact. The great glory of England is in administration of pure and impartial justice, and that should be maintained. People have got a suspicion that the District Magistrate exercises a power over his subordinates which does not lead to purity of justice. Therefore, it is the duty of Government to disabuse the public

mind of that prejudice or of that apprehension. I beg to submit that every effort should be made by Government to separate these two functions consistently, so far as possible, with the prestige of the Magistrate and of good government in this country.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: This reform which is demanded by all the resolutions under discussion is overdue. To say so is to say the least about a demand which is now more than a century and a quarter old. It was brought upon a poor, helpless—I do not know whether I shall say a conquered—people by certain aggressive rules who preferred financial security to administration of justice. After the transfer of the *Dewani* to the English in 1765, Sir John Shore made some sort of report to the Board of Directors that we, Hindus and Muhammadans of Bengal, were lovers of the despotic rule, and in this country, unless that despotic rule was made permanent by combining the executive and judicial functions in the same person, certainly we, Hindus and Muhammadans of that time of Bengal—lovers of such despotic authority—would be rather very worse off, and, out of kindness to us the gentleman made the said report. Such a good Governor as Lord Cornwallis had to bring the despatches some time in the year 1781 and inculcated upon us this insidious poison which has eaten out our vitals for a century and a quarter. Even at the end of Lord Cornwallis' own rule he himself was of opinion that the system was not good and should be abolished. Since then high officials, Judges, including several Chief Justices of the Calcutta High Court, and, lastly, Lord Hobhouse, all of them have been pleading that this system should be done away with But unfortunately thought it appears that this system never existed in India, whether you refer to the Hindu system of jurisprudence and polity, or refer to Shukraniti, or if you refer to the system of administration of justice that obtained during the Mussalman period (there might have been individual cases of scandalous miscarriage of justice here and there), it was thrust upon us at the time. And why? Because we were powerless and because revenue was preferred to the proper administration of justice We have all along been demanding its reform unanimously—and it is not question of one party asking and the other party not doing so—without any distinction of caste or creed, religion or race, but still it is not being granted. And why, because we are a subject people—I regret to use the words "subject people." After the introduction of the reform regime we have been told that we are being given some sort of equal status, but I for myself have not been able to forget that there are instances in which almost every moment we are reminded that we belong to a subject race, and it is impossible for us to forget it so long as there are provisions in the Criminal Procedure Code for the preferential treatment in respect of trials of the ruling race. The system of combination of judicial and executive functions in the same man has not only sacrificed the pure administration of justice but has been a prime factor in creating slave mentality, in us. I am very

sorry that I have been speaking rather in a strain which may not be palatable to certain gentlemen, but, if I have given any cause for offence, I beg pardon. But I would ask them in all seriousness to consider in their minds what if our position was theirs, their feeling would be. If they in their own country had been demanding a reform for a century and a quarter and they would not get it, what would their feelings be? I am sure that they will perfectly appreciated my sentiments.

But why has the much-needed reform not yet been carried out? First comes the question of prestige. To prestige is really due a number of scandalous cases, two of which are to be found in that excellent collection of Mr. Monmohan Ghose—the Fenua and Lal Chand Cases. These are only the types of several—almost innumerable—cases which occur almost every day in the administration of criminal justice in this country. I am not quite sure whether I am right in formulating such a proposition in Calcutta, where the High Court is close by, but I can assure you, Sir, that there is no place in the country where some such thing does not occur almost every day. It is perhaps one in a thousand such cases that you read in newspapers, and even in these cases they have got to be backed by men of the mental calibre of the stamp of Mr. Monmohan Ghose and the like. Otherwise, these people suffer in silence. This miscarriage of justice has so demoralised the people that they have really come to think of it as a necessary incidence of life in India. If that is so, I appeal to you to say whether time has not come when we should not only enter our emphatic protest against this sort of unholy combination of the two functions and take the earliest opportunity of separating them on the principles which have been very well laid down by Mr. A. C. Dutt, the worthy son of a worthy father, who perhaps devoted some of the best years of his life for carrying out this reform. Now coming to the point. I have already told you that it is the prestige that has been keeping up the system. As against this, I point out one fact, viz., the demoralisation not only of the English Judges and Magistrates, but also following their earthly masters, a worse demoralisation of my own countrymen—the Indian Deputy Magistrates. To speak from experience when the English Assistant Magistrate come from home, there is a great deal to admire in them, but after taking a few lessons perhaps at the feet of some *pucca* bureaucrat and after diving deep into the knowledge of the powers which are vested in them, say after a couple of years, they turn out different beings. We were told by our late professor, Mr. N. N. Ghose, that one of the best traits in the English character was to enjoy power without exercising it. In the combination of the two functions, judicial and executive, in India the converse proposition is rendered true so far at least as those gentlemen are concerned. When these English gentlemen are demoralised in such a way this system should not be continued any further even for their interest and good name. Many Indian Magistrates are worse sinners. Sometimes the English Magistrates are bearable; they are sometimes open to conviction, but when the Indian

Magistrates sit in Courts, how often a whisper of a police officer or a significant word of a Court Inspector has been sufficient to carry the day!

In my long experience before several courts in the province on different occasions I have had frequent opportunities of noticing and feeling the evils of the combination and with no powers to remedy them. Sometimes I was bound to put up with it in silence on account of various reasons and on other occasions had even to give up my brief as hopeless. In the provisions of Law regulating exercise of judicial functions there are such things as summary trials, which give a good cloak to many of the vagaries performed under the executive influences. However, I shall not dilate upon it. My point is this. This demoralisation not only of the English Judges, but also of the Indian Magistrates is a factor which should carry weight, and it should be put a stop to. Then comes the question of expenses. Is it a fact that money is not available for it? Scheme after scheme has been propounded where an extra expenditure is necessary or where really the expenditure would be appreciable. Money has always been found for the same. But for over a century not to get money for this necessary reform is really something which one should be loath to believe. So these two grounds really do not hold good. Therefore the reform ought to have been given effect to long, long ago, and if you do not give it to us even now, well, the only thing we can say is that you can afford to do so as we are helpless, and with this stamp of our helplessness some of our non-co-operator friends outside will certainly say that the Reformed Council is but a show. As to my amendment I have asked for omission of a portion from the resolution of Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur to bring it in line with the underlying demand and the policy of all the resolutions on this subject of the separation of judicial and executive functions. I object to the portion, which I ask to omit, on the grounds which I have tried to explain before this Council. The practice of making Sessions and Assistant Sessions Judges by promotion from the Senior Deputy Magistrates is not a desirable affair under the present circumstances. Barring a few exceptions, for whom I have the greatest regard, others are like old fossils, who have been brought up in the undesirable atmosphere, and who make us often feel as if they belong to a separate species of human beings. Even we, who cried ourselves hoarse for over 30 years for the increment of these gentlemen's pay for giving them equal position with those of the superior service, are now noticing how they are behaving themselves. There should not, therefore, be any hard and fast rule that Sessions Judges should be appointed from these gentlemen. Even now, under section 407, Criminal Procedure Code, in almost all the important districts Senior Deputy Magistrates have been empowered to try appeals. Therefore, there is no necessity of having that portion too, in the resolution. As to appointments, Government should have an open field in order to get the best possible recruits to those higher posts. I am very sorry to observe here that the experiment of promoting some

of the Subordinate Judges to be Session Judges is not quite satisfactory. Much depends upon the proper selection of deserving persons. With these words, I beg to urge my amendment on the Council.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: The question of the separation of executive and judicial functions is so old, it has been discussed so often, and so often has Government proclaimed its acceptance of the principle, that it is an irony of fate that it should be at all necessary for any one at this time of the day to be still pressing this matter upon the attention of the Government. But the fact remains, and it is a humiliating confession to have to make, that Government so far have done little to redeem their solemn pledge and remove this blot on the administration of criminal justice in this country. The existing system has been condemned so often and so strongly, that I do not think that anything I can say can possibly add to the force and volume of such condemnation. I may, however, mention that the condemnation has proceeded not merely from persons who may be dubbed as agitators, but it has come also from officials of the highest rank and eminence and of ripe judgment and experience. There is voluminous literature on this subject and members in this Council are perhaps aware that the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter has made a notable contribution to the output of information on this question. Government has always pleaded the question of cost as a bar to carrying out of this measure of administrative reform. I do not profess to speak with authority on this aspect of the question, but I am certain that now that the purse-strings are held by the representatives of the people in this Council, the supply of money will be forthcoming if a well-considered scheme is placed before the Council and is approved by it. It is repugnant to commonsense and to our ordinary notions of fairness and justice that the prosecutor and the judge should be rolled into one and that the man who catches the thief has got also to try him. We have waited long, too long for this crying measure of reform. Pray do not let us wait till the Greek Kalends.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I gave notice of this resolution suggesting that steps be taken for the separation of judicial, and executive functions not so much to discuss the defects of the present system, as to suggest to Government that it is a pledge which was given several years ago and which ought to be redeemed and that this is a measure which ought to have been undertaken long ago, but has been unfortunately deferred so long and should no longer be deferred. I could not particularly understand the speeches of members who have tried to dilate on the defects of the present system, because I feel that so far as these defects are concerned there is no room for controversy. Even officials have never claimed that the present system of administration of justice in this country is anything like a counsel of perfection. In 1908, the Hon'ble Sir Harvey Adamson made a speech in the Imperial Legislative Council which puts very briefly and cogently the defects

of this system and far more lucidly and plainly than I can ever attempt to do. This is what Sir Harvey Adamson said, on the 28th of March 1908, from his place in the Viceregal Legislative Council:—"The inevitable result of the present system is that criminal trials affecting the general peace of the district are not always conducted in that atmosphere of cool impartiality which should pervade a court of justice; nor does this completely define the evil which lies not so much in what is done as in what may be suspected to be done, for it is not enough that the administration of justice should be pure It can never be the bedrock of our rule unless it is also above suspicion." But this is not all. Long before Sir Harvey Adamson spoke in the Legislative Council, eminent men, past administrators like Sir Frederick Halliday, Sir John Peter Grant, Sir Bartle Frere, Sir Cecil Beadon and Sir Barnes Peacock, all joined in condemning this system. Again, in 1899, a memorial was presented to the Secretary of State for India urging the separation of the two functions and signed by such eminent jurists as Lord Hobhouse, Sir Richard Couch, Sir Richard Garth, Sir John Phear and Sir William Markby and many others equally distinguished. It is therefore a perfect waste of time for anybody to go into details and to convince anyone in this Council that there is much room for reform. Nobody disputes that proposition, and if any one were to discuss the defects of the present system he would only be trying to preach to the converted. The whole point is this: granting that there is room for improvement, what are the practical steps which ought to be taken in order to give effect to this much-needed reform. It is true that two schemes have been put forward, one by the late Mr. R. C. Dutt, as late as 1893, and another which was recently put forward by the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter. Now, as I understand the situation, it seems to me that both these systems require to be examined and perhaps also revised in certain respects before they can be accepted as a sort of reform of the system of administration of justice in this country. I will make my point clear by going a little into the details in this respect. It was one of the two arguments in favour of the separation of judicial and executive functions when we used to say that the District Magistrate, as the head of the police, used in some mysterious way to influence the judgments of the Deputy Magistrate. Now, every one knows that the District Magistrates at the present moment have got very little to do with the police. The Police service is now a close service, and from the Inspector-General of Police downwards to the very constable they are a complete set of public officers who have practically nothing to do with the District Magistrates. It is true that in former times even appeals from orders passed by the Superintendents of Police had to go up to the District Magistrates and through the District Magistrates to the Commissioners of Divisions. But to argue at the present moment that the District Magistrates influence the decision of Deputy Magistrates is an argument which will not bear careful scrutiny. Then it is

sometimes said that the District Magistrates in some mysterious way influence the decisions of Deputy Magistrates. That is what I have heard, but I can say from personal experience that I have never myself come across a single instance of this character. Secondly, it must be admitted that in carrying out this reform some amount of money will have to be spent. The question of cost comes in. It may be or it may not be very costly. A scheme may be put forward which might represent the minimum of cost, but if there be some schemes or if there is more than one scheme, all the schemes will have to be considered, before one can say that a particular scheme will not only meet the requirements of the situation, but will also entail the minimum cost to the public purse. It therefore seems to me that a sort of committee might be appointed to consider the schemes which have already been put forward or which might be put forward and to see which is the scheme which will bring about the much-needed reform without throwing any great burden on the public purse. At the present moment we are very much pressed for funds, and it would be extremely undesirable to thrust upon the Government a measure of reform, which although very necessary, would cost the public exchequer a sum of money which will be somewhat appalling. I therefore suggest that a committee be appointed——

The PRESIDENT: There is no such matter before the Council. There is no resolution or amendment to cover it.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: My resolution says that steps be taken, and I submit that in recommending steps that should be taken it is quite open to me to suggest the form the steps should take. I am suggesting that in taking the steps for the separation of judicial and executive functions, Government might, as a first step, appoint a committee to consider what scheme would be suitable. It may be a suggestion, which might be considered along with other suggestions that might be put forward. It is true that I have not put forward this as a substantial resolution, but I say this in supporting the resolution. I do not think that I will be justified in taking up the time of the Council by going over the ground which has been covered by the previous speakers. With these few words I commend my resolution to the acceptance of this Council.

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): The subject of these resolutions, as has been mentioned by more than one speaker this afternoon, is one of great antiquity, and upon no subject of Indian administration, perhaps, has more ink been expended and more eloquence displayed. If I rise at this stage of the debate to explain in what light these resolutions are viewed by Government, it is with some hope of curtailing further additions to the mass of literature which already exists in connection with this question. The extent of this written matter will to some degree be

realised if I draw the attention of the Council to these two book: These are two bound volumes compiled in 1908, merely comprising th most important papers as regards Bengal, and they date from 183 downwards. It is worthwhile recalling to the Council that, where these judicial and executive functions of the District Officer were joir up till 1836, they were actually separated shortly after that year, unt the year 1859, when they were again united, separation having thu once been tried, though ultimately the joint system was preferred.

In mentioning this ancient history the Council will no doubt be gla to hear that I do not intend to go back to the days of Hindu antiquity or even to the early days of the Company, and if I briefly mention th modern history of the subject it is in order that the Council may appre ciate the general trend of the views expressed from time to time, an the circumstances in which this question has been held in abeyance an Government has been so long in arriving at a decision upon it. Th modern history, so to speak, of this question may be said to date fro 1899, when a very influential memorial, signed among others by Lo Hobhouse and Mr. Wedderburn, was presented to the Secretary of Stat and sent out for enquiry to this country. That memorial was base very largely on the writings of an eminent Bengali, Mr. Monmoha Ghose, and it was supported among others by the able pen of Mr. R. C Dutt. It was exhaustively examined by the Bengal Governmen among others, and as an impression has been sought to be given th afternoon that there is absolutely nothing to be said on the other side, is worth while mentioning that the local Government came to the co clusion that "in the interests of good government, *i.e.*, of gener administrative expediency, the union of executive and judicial fun tions in district and subdivisional officers was at the present day esse tial." That was their opinion. I do not say whether it was right wrong, but it was the opinion of many experienced administrators that time. That was in 1901. The matter went up before the Gover ment of India, no doubt along with voluminous reports from other pr vinces, and I think that it was Lord Curzon, who, on one occasio referred to the literature on the subject as filling a fair sized room a as having taxed even his great energies to grapple with it. Tin passed in discussion and the variety of views was great.

The next landmark was Sir Harvey Adamson's speech of 1908, whe he said that the Government of India were prepared to make a cautio and tentative advance in the direction of separation, but one aspect that pronouncement is not without its relevancy to our discussion to-da as it emphasises the possible danger of committing ourselves to a li of policy and then enquiring afterwards what it entails in carrying out. After Sir Harvey Adamson made this announcement referenc were again made to local Governments. In Bengal at that time S Andrew Fraser was Lieutenant-Governor, and he frankly recommend that the whole scheme be dropped. Sir Edward Baker, who succede

him, was on the other hand in favour of Sir Harvey Adamson's schem in the framing of which, as a Member of the Government of India, I thin it is a fairly open secret that he had had a considerable hand. Bu while he was in favour of the scheme, he proposed that it should l deferred in view of the political situation at the moment. Those wer the days when the province of Bengal was divided, and in Eastern Be gal Sir Lancelot Hare, while complying with the request of the Go ernment of India to work out an estimate of cost, stated definitel that he did not agree that there were adequate grounds for making th change. All these replies went up about the year 1908-09, and the ensued correspondence between the Government of India and the Secre tary of State, leading to further enquiry of local Government, in 191 12 as to certain details of the scheme. That was replied to in the sam year, and the matter again came before the Government of India. B that time, however, other opinions were making themselves felt, an there were considerable differences as to the merits of Sir Harve Adamson's proposals. In fact they had by that time been subjected t the examination which from some points of view had better have pre ceded the definite pronouncement, and the case again went home t the Secretary of State, after which the war broke out and the whol thing was held in abeyance. Up till then the question had bee regarded as an all-India one, but subsequent to the creation of th Reformed Councils, as members are aware, it was raised at Delhi th other day, when Sir William Vincent expressed the opinion that i need no longer be treated on uniform lines throughout India, but tha each province might consider it for itself, while the Government o India would be prepared to examine and consider any recommendation submitted to them. That being, in brief, the modern history, i is not surprising that the question should be ventilated now in thi Council, though I share the opinion of Mr. A. C. Dutt in regrettin that this debate has come at the fag-end of a somewhat protracte session.

What are the arguments in a nutshell on either side? In favou of separation we have those who assert that in so far as the Distric Magistrate and Collector is, in the last resort, the head of the police, i so far as he supervises the work of the subordinate magistracy and hear appeals from those of the second and third class, in so far as he possesse the power of himself hearing cases while responsible for the peace o the district, and in so far as the enforcement of what are known as th preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code is subject to hi control, to all that extent the course of justice is liable to be deflecte by the subordinate magistracy. The theory is singularly uncompli mentary to the subordinate magistracy, but it is that, looking to th position of the District Magistrate, they are liable to be influenced i the direction of conviction. It is for some reason always supposed tha the District Magistrate is a tiger for conviction, and that owing to hi

influence, many innocent men, to adopt the classical phrase, "now rot in jail." The figures, of course, do not entirely bear this out, when we realise that the percentage of convictions before the magistracy is roughly in the neighbourhood of 50 per cent. only. If it is a fact that more than 50 per cent. of the people put up before the magistrates are innocent, the amusement of bringing false cases against one's neighbours must prevail in this country to an extent which I hesitate to believe to be true.

However, that is the argument, in brief, for separation.

On the other side, opinions have been held by many experienced administrators—distinguished names can be claimed on either side—that, in fact, the course of justice is not impeded; that whatever scandals may be adduced might equally be adduced under any system, and that looking to the conditions of Indian administration in the mufassal, it does make for better administration and for better peace and order in the districts that there should be one officer in whom ultimate control of the two sides of administration is centralised, he being responsible for the peace of the district. That, in brief, is the argument of those who deprecate change; while they urge the further objection that to make the change would entail a dislocation of the present system, the results of which it is somewhat difficult to foresee, as also expenditure on a very considerable scale.

These are the arguments very shortly, on either side, and I do not now pronounce upon them. The essential theory underlying the request for the separation of judicial and executive functions is that magisterial authority should not be subject to interference and control by executive authority, and that theory is one, which, I may say at once, the local Government frankly and freely admit. It is obviously a correct theory; but while admitting that much, the issue which I would like to place before the Council this afternoon, is what are the practical steps that this Council would propose to take in order to give effect to that theory, and what will they cost?

We have had various schemes of separation, the leading ones of which have been mentioned to-day, though not much detail has been given of the various respects in which they differ conspicuously amongst themselves. We have the scheme of 1893 of Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt, which certainly purported to be, and I think was described by him as, very simple. He argued that "Here is the Collector and District Magistrate; under him are certain deputies and sub-deputies performing magisterial and executive functions respectively. Perfectly simple; cut them in half; put the magisterial under the Judge, and the executive under the Collector, and you have separation at practically no additional cost." That was his simple scheme, but when it came to be examined by the local Government in 1901, it was found to overlook many essential details, and was estimated to cost something like Rs. 15 lakhs recurring, *plus* 4 lakhs initial.

Then we came to the scheme of Sir Harvey Adamson in 1908. His scheme was an improvement on Mr. Dutt's. He said, in brief, "Let us have in each district an executive officer or district officer, and entrust him with all executive functions. Alongside of him let us have a senior magisterial officer, to be known, possibly, as the chief magistrate, who will supervise magisterial work and take over the judicial functions of the district magistrate other than the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code"—rather an important exception. In subdivisions Sir Harvey Adamson outlined a very complicated plan for having separate boundaries for judicial and executive subdivisions, the idea being that the ordinary subdivisional revenue work would not be sufficient for a full-time executive officer who would have to be given a larger charge than his magisterial counterpart. That was the skeleton of this plan, and it will be observed that it is very different from Mr. Dutt's. But when it came to be examined as to cost, some rather startling figures emerged. Sir Edward Baker had an estimate framed as regards the introduction of this system in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, Hooghly and Howrah, and I would draw the attention of the Council to the fact that, except the 24-Parganas none of these districts are equal in size to the larger districts in Bengal But it was estimated that in buildings alone in these five districts, the cost would be about Rs. 1,80,000. On his own showing nearly Rs. 1,90,000 was recurring and Rs. 1,80,000 non-recurring. There is a tendency to insinuate that Government exaggerates the cost of any scheme in order to put off the execution of what they do not like, and it is worth remembering that these estimates were given by Sir Edward Baker, who was a strong advocate of separation and at the same time an experienced financier. For the districts of Dacca and Pabna in Eastern Bengal, which Sir Lancelot Hare suggested for the experiment there was a capital of Rs. 2,92,000 and Rs. 2,08,000 initial, while he added that he put the capital cost to the province at Rs. 23 lakhs and recurring cost Rs. 15 lakhs. A warning was added that these figures might, in practice, be found to be lower that the actuals.

The third scheme is that of Mr. Mitter, which again differs materially from either of its predecessors. It is comprised in this small book which members have doubtless seen. Mr. Mitter's scheme was in some way of a more far-reaching character. He wanted to put the magistrate under the Judge, but the distinctive part of his plan was the creation of a specially-recruited judicial service which was to undertake both civil and criminal work, and he was prepared to entrust the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code even, if necessary, to a subordinate judge Like Mr. Dutt, he claimed that his scheme could be introduced without extra cost, but although his scheme was never examined in the same detail as that of Mr. Dutt, I cannot but fear that if it had been subjected to the same process the opinions as to the expenditure involved would have been equally unfavourable.

That then being the position, that we have a long series of arguments on either side fairly evenly balanced; that we have had various schemes differing materially among themselves in their nature, and, more important, in their cost, what would be the prudent course for this Council to take to-day? I submit that the proper course is not to commit ourselves to a hurried vote for the immediate separation of judicial and executive functions, either accompanied or unaccompanied by the details which are mentioned in some of the amendments put forward, but to initiate such enquiries as will enable the matter to be considered hereafter in the light of something more definite, more authoritative, in the nature of a scheme than anything which has yet been laid before the public. That is the course which I commend to the Council, and if it commends itself to the Council, it is the course which Government would be prepared to take. We have no wish to start another inquiry as to everybody's views on the theoretical merits. The literature on that subject is already more than ample. No doubt these opinions will have to be considered, and sooner or later judged, but almost all that can be said on that aspect of the subject has been said. What we want to get at is more definite. To what extent is there, in fact, an actual combination of functions at the present time, and by what means could separation be effected, and at what cost? In other words, we want an authoritative pronouncement of experienced men as to how separation could be carried out, assuming it to be decided upon. How would they propose to ensure the adequate supervision of magisterial work, the proper training of the magistracy and the efficient disposal of business on both sides? What will it all mean in officers, buildings and establishment? Given that information we should be in a position to deal with the matter far more satisfactorily than is the case at present.

That, Sir, is the line of action that I propose. The sort of committee that I should like to see is one of weight and experience. I should like to see it presided over by a High Court Judge; I should like to see on it an executive officer of experience, a representative of the Bar and a representative of the general public. I believe if such a committee were appointed it would put an end to much of the uncertainty that at present surrounds the discussions of this subject, and they could tell us what, if separation is desired, the province must be prepared to undertake and finance. The suggestion is closely akin to that of Mr. A. C. Dutt and Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq, and I put it to the Council that they would be wise to accept it.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: After the exhaustive manner in which the Hon'ble Member has put the history of the case, I do not think it is necessary to go into details, but I should like to point out one thing.

The resolution that has been moved by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri discussed mainly the principles of the separation of the two services. If that principle is accepted by Government, then the question

of working out the details may very easily be taken up by any committee, the nature of which has been suggested by Sir Henry Wheeler. What we want this Council to do is to decide that this principle of the separation of the executive and judicial functions must be accepted by Government, and that, without delay. The details may be worked out by any committee.

My friend, Mr. D. C. Ghose, has said that this question has been discussed by agitators and experienced administrators for years without number. I do not know what he means by the word agitators; if he means all who are not experienced administrators, I may tell him that I am proud to belong to that band of agitators who have been agitating for this reform. The question of prestige has also been raised Prestige is a very good thing, but there is a limit beyond which prestige ought not to be pushed. We have noticed that in the administration of the country, the cry of prestige has been raised in several matters, which have gone to the detriment of the country. It is all very well to talk of prestige in every case, but it goes against the sense of the country to make a fetish of prestige. Let us do away with that fetish.

Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq has quoted from the speech of Sir Harvey Adamson. I would like to quote one more sentence from that speech, which shows that an experienced administrator like him has also found the defects of the present system in the administration of justice. He has said: " there is the unconscious bias in favour of a conviction entertained by the Magistrate who is responsible for the peace of his district or by the Magistrate who is subordinate to that District Magistrate." Even this bias towards conviction is unjust and is detrimental to the best interests of the country.

We know, Sir, that the District Magistrate has to send in a confidential report about the work of the Deputy Magistrates; is it any wonder, knowing about these confidential reports, that these Deputy Magistrates, when they sit in judgment in cases where the police or the Magistrate takes some interest, are afraid not to convict, when these confidential reports on their work are hanging like the sword of Damocles over their heads, and they cannot, therefore, with the best intentions, do justice to justice.

Sir Henry Wheeler has given statistical records showing how very few convictions have been made by Deputy Magistrates. It is not a question of statistics; if there is one case of injustice, if there is a feeling in the country that the Magistrate is capable, by the powers given to him, of doing an act of injustice, that act of injustice, or a suspicion of his capability of doing an act of injustice, strikes the whispering multitudes of the country, who naturally lose all feeling of love and respect for the Government, which allows that sort of injustice to be done.

It has been said, Sir, times without number, that a new era has come before the country. His Excellency, the new Governor General, said in his memorable reply to the Bombay Municipality in words which ought to be written in letters of gold:—"Justice and sympathy never failed to evoke responsive chords in the hearts of men of whatever race, creed or class. They are the two brightest gems in any diadem. Without them, there is no lustre in a crown. With them, there is a radiance which never fails to attach loyalty and affection." Above all these, are his words: "Justice must be regardless of distinctions and rigorously impartial." Then he continues: "I am convinced that all who are associated in the Government and administration of Indian affairs will strive their utmost to maintain this reputation at its highest standard."

After these words, can any member of the Government refuse to accept this proposition which will not only secure pure justice, but, to insure that justice, like Caesar's wife, may be above suspicion. With these words, I support the motion.

Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur: The question of the separation of judicial and executive functions has been agitating the public mind since a very long time; its origin dates far back into the early part of the last century, when the strange union of the two functions, the thief-catcher and Judge was severely criticised. It attracted considerable public attention when the dangers resulting from the combination of the two functions were brought to light, by the late Mr. Monmohan Ghose, a renowned Barrister of the Calcutta Bar, whose name, as a genuine patriot, and a true benefactor, has become a household word in Bengal. The extent and gravity of the mischief have been well illustrated in a series of sensational cases wherein Mr. Ghose appeared as counsel for the defence in which the hand of the police in guiding the Magistrate, sitting in judgment, was exposed in its nakedness. This was in the 'eighties of the last century. Later on, on 1st July, 1899, a memorial was submitted to the Secretary of State for India, by the Right Hon'ble Lord Hobhouse, K.C.S.I., Right Hon'ble Sir Richard Garth, Q.C., Right Hon'ble Sir Richard Couch, Sir Charles Sargent, Sir William Markby, K.C.I.E., Sir John Budd Phear, Sir John Scott, K.C.M.G., Sir W. Wedderburn, BART., M.P., Sir Roland K. Wilson, BART., and Mr. Herbert J. Reynolds, C.S.I., for preparation of a scheme for complete separation of judicial and executive functions and for report upon this urgently pressing question, at an early date. The Secretary of State forwarded this memorial to the Government of India, but no scheme prepared by the Government of India has seen the light of day.

This is ancient history. In the modern history, we find that in 1908, the Hon'ble Sir Harvey Adamson, the then Finance Member of

the Viceroy's Council, while replying on the Budget debate, admitted the principle of separation and said: "that on these grounds, the Government of India have decided to advance cautiously and tentatively towards the separation of judicial and executive functions, in those parts of India, where the local conditions render that change possible and appropriate."

The question was again discussed in March, 1913, in the Viceroy's Council. Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea (then Mr. Banerjea), from his seat in the Viceroy's Council, moved a resolution for grant to the local Government for carrying out the scheme for separation of judicial and executive functions. The motion was lost, all Indian members voting for, and the European members against, it. A very sad exhibition of co-operation between the two communities!

Lastly, the question was discussed in the Council of State at Delhi, only the other day, when the Hon'ble Mr. Bhugri, moved the resolution, namely, that early steps be taken to accomplish the severance of judicial from executive functions almost immediately. There was a full dress debate, when the Hon'ble Home Member, Sir William Vincent, said, towards the close of his speech, that the matter was a provincial one, and assured the House that if any local Government decided to take up the question of separating the judicial from the executive functions, the matter was one for them and the Government of India would raise no objection. This is, in short, the history of the question; but it is strange—surpassingly strange—that after a century's agitation and cogitation, it is in the same embryonic condition in which it was at the time of the earliest agitation.

The question has been discussed threadbare, in the press and in public meetings, and every year at the sittings of the Indian National Congress and the Provincial Conferences, and the Indian public mind is unanimous upon the point that the combination of judicial with executive duties in the same officer, violates the first principles of equity and that the existing system produces actual miscarriages of justice, and creates opportunities of suspicions, distrust and discontent, which are greatly to be deplored. It may be, Sir, that additional expenditure may be required to be borne for introducing this reform; but I may say, in the words of Sir Harvey Adamson, "that the experiment may be a costly one, but we think, the object is a worthy one." I go further and say that no expenditure is too large for the introduction of a reform of such vital importance to the public. The present Reforms have been condemned by a section of the public as "disappointing," and to disprove it, it is the imperative duty of us all to pass the present resolution and give a notable proof that the Reforms are not mere shams, but give large powers to the people, in the administration of the country.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I beg to move that the question be now put.

On the motion that the question be now put, being put, Dr. Jatindra Nath Maitra asked for a division.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I beg to withdraw the motion that the question be now put.

The PRESIDENT: You cannot do it now.

A division was then taken.

The Ayes being 38 and the Noes 52, the motion was lost.

The PRESIDENT: The discussion will now continue, and I call upon Babu Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta to speak.

Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: To speak on a resolution after a motion for closure has been put, is rather inopportune, because the motion for closure shows that a section of this Council was for stopping further debate. However, considering the importance of the matter, I think it my duty to take part in the discussion. I have been a close student of this question for about 30 years; and apart from the study of the mass of literature on the subject—I think I have a good deal of experience of magistrates' courts in the mufassal—to contribute something to that voluminous literature; but I have always been under the impression that the question has now only a sort of academic interest, because the principle has in a manner been accepted by the high and the low, by the Government and the people; and the demand for the actual separation has been insistent and persistent. Nevertheless, on some plea or some pretext or other, the actual separation or the carrying out of the reform has up till now been postponed. Now, I think the time is quite ripe for taking up the question in right earnest. It did strike me that an important resolution like this should not have been brought at the fag-end of the session; and my idea was that the Government should have been informally approached and in the meantime, a practical scheme adapted to the circumstances of the province and also adapted to the times, because all the old schemes referred to decades gone by, should have been submitted in order to induce the Government to give immediate effect to such a scheme. I would then have asked some of my friends to withdraw the resolutions and to bring up the question at the next session. However, that has not been done and the question has now been put before the Council. It seems to me—of course I take, some pride in having been a close student of this question—that the question of cost should not be brushed aside as some eminent men did in the past; and I find that the question of cost did not strike me to be so very frightful as to scare us all away from the reform altogether. Coming to the lowest unit of administration, we go to the subdivision; there is some difficulty in the subdivision, as in some of the subdivisions there is one Subdivisional Officer, who exercises magisterial powers and also certain executive powers, and there is no

other Magistrate, though there may be an honorary bench or some Sub-Deputy Magistrates. Supposing that there be a separation of the functions in these subdivisions—and I put it very briefly—it will be necessary to place a full-fledged Deputy Magistrate with first class powers to dispose of the criminal cases, if the Subdivisional Officer is to be relieved of his magisterial functions. So, that would involve some cost. Then, again, there are certain districts where we have not got Additional Magistrates. It is said that in some of the districts, the District Officers have now been relieved of their judicial duties, because there are Additional Magistrates who perform the judicial functions Now, as a matter of fact, every district has not got an Additional Magistrate. Supposing a separation is to be effected now, it will then be necessary to have an Additional Magistrate or an officer corresponding in status, to such a Magistrate in every district and that would indeed involve some cost. There is no question that to give effect to the principle of separation, some additional cost shall have to be incurred. The Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler has given us figures collected by some of the administrators in the past. Their estimates may or may not be correct; and we cannot go upon these estimates for this reason, that in many cases we have increased the staff of officers or in others we might have shortened the staff of officers. So the whole question has to be gone into, anew.

The proposal of Sir Henry Wheeler with regard to the formation of a committee to consider the question of costs, seems to me to be very reasonable and very practical, provided, of course, like other committees its formation be not put off till Doomsday and the consideration of the report is not put off till the Greek Kalends. Under these circumstances, I think it would be proper if I take it that the principle in a manner has been accepted by the Government, and if the principle is accepted, that a committee be formed to consider a practical scheme of separation. The committee may inform us about the financial aspect of the question, which is a most important aspect now, in view of our financial position We have been throughout the session debating the Budget and we have been pressing for retrenchments; we have refused many grants and our deficits are very great; and it is quite on the cards, that in the next session we may be called upon to devise ways and means for making up the deficit either by fresh taxation or by fresh loans or by other means. In such circumstances the formation of a committee to go into the question of cost—that is to say, at what minimum cost this much desired and long-deferred reform can be effected—is very desirable, and I think the Council should accept the suggestion thrown out by the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: I rise to support the resolution moved by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri. I have heard very carefully the suggestions of the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, but unfortunately I could

not understand what his suggestions really amounted to. Does the Hon'ble Member suggest that the resolution as it stands in the name of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri is accepted by the Government, or does he suggest that this matter should altogether be dropped out for the present? If the suggestion amounts to this, that in view of the fact that there are well-balanced arguments—to quote the language of Sir Henry Wheeler—on both sides and that it would involve a great amount of cost, the question need not be discussed now and the resolution need not be passed, certainly, I, for my part, am not quite in a position to accept the suggestion. Sir Henry Wheeler had to admit that the principle must be theoretically accepted; and though Sir Henry Wheeler said that the arguments on both sides were evenly balanced, I think it would not be out of place if I state before the Council one or two facts which would at once convince the members of this Council that the arguments are entirely one-sided and not evenly balanced. The arguments that are generally advanced in favour of the present system of the administration of criminal justice are that if there be a separation of judicial and executive functions, then the prestige of the District Officers will be reduced, and that as the sense that society suffers from failure of punishment of the offenders has not been yet completely developed in oriental countries, it is essentially desirable that there should not be any diminution in the prestige of the District Officers. It has been said that the prestige of the District Magistrate consists in the fact that the people in the district know that the person who is the head of the executive has also the power to punish the offenders, and the prestige of the District Officer consists in his power to punish the offenders. Now, for myself, I am unable to follow this argument, for the reason that if the prestige of a particular officer depends upon his power to inflict punishment, then I think our Viceroy must be taken as to have no prestige at all, because we all know that the Viceroy has not got any power to inflict any punishment. No doubt the Sessions Judge has got the power to sentence a man to death, to commit a person to transportation for life, but certainly the Viceroy has not got that power, and that does not mean that the prestige of the Sessions Judge is greater than that of the Viceroy. Therefore, there is absolutely no force in the argument that unless there be this corresponding power in the District Magistrate to inflict punishment upon the offenders, he would not have the corresponding prestige in the district.

Then, the other argument that is always advanced in favour of the present system of administration is that in Bengal, or at least in India, it is sometimes said that the people are not so anxious to bring the offenders to justice and that the moral ideas of the people of the country are not yet so advanced that they would help in the punishment of the offenders; and therefore the people of the province are in such

a backward condition that there must be a corresponding concentration of power in the District Magistrate, in one and the same person; that is the argument which is advanced. Now, we all know that the Reforms Act has been passed on the assumption that the people are now fit, at least to a certain extent, to help in the administration of their own country; and that also assumes that we are not so backward as some people would call us in their speeches. If that is so, that argument has at present no force.

Then comes the question of costs, with regard to which Sir Henry Wheeler has given us certain figures. He has said that certain estimates have been prepared to give effect to the separation of judicial and executive, but he has not said whether, in view of the importance of this particular measure, such expenditure is justified or not. We have not heard from Sir Henry Wheeler whether the Council would not be in a position at the present stage to supply money or at least to suggest means for finding out the money, if really it is a measure which must be given effect to at once. As Mr. D. C. Ghose has pointed out, if the Council passes the resolution that early steps should be taken for the separation of the judicial from the executive, it is the look-out of the Council to find out money and as to how the scheme is to be given effect to. When the mover brought this resolution before the Council, he knew that there would be some difficulty in procuring the money, but at the same time he knew that it was for the Council to decide and for the Council to find out whether they could provide money for the particular purpose. We have been able to provide money for urgent and important measures, and if it is once conceded that it is a measure which is long overdue and which must be accepted at once, I think no pains would be spared to find out money for giving effect to this particular scheme at once.

It has been suggested that a committee must be formed to formulate a scheme, to elaborate a scheme as to how this separation of judicial and executive can be effected. Certainly that will be one of the means of effecting the partition, but that would not, and that ought not to, prevent us from passing this resolution, because the language of the resolution is quite wide enough to include such things. The resolution says: "This Council recommends to the Government that early steps be taken for the total separation of the judicial from the executive functions in the administration of this Presidency." This early step may be the formation of a committee; that may be the initial step; and what is desired is that not only one step, but all the steps should be taken and taken early. If we simply say, and if we simply remain satisfied with this, that a scheme should be elaborated or that early steps should be taken to elaborate a scheme, certainly we restrict our resolution simply to the theoretical portion, namely, to the framing out of a scheme, but nothing is said in the resolution about giving effect to that pious wish. Therefore to me it seems that the suggestion of

Sir Henry Wheeler is included in this resolution, and the resolution goes further than the suggestion of Sir Henry Wheeler. In that view what I would submit is that, as on principle nothing can be said against it, the resolution, as it is, ought to be accepted. As regards the amendments, different members have suggested different schemes. And, as the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler stated, the question is a difficult and intricate one and it is desirable that a committee should be appointed to sift all these things and to arrive at a practical solution of the question, I think the suggestion of the Hon'ble Member in charge should be accepted, and in that view, so far as the principal resolution is concerned, it also should be accepted, as the principle is accepted, and that effect should be given to it at once.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I do not think there would have been any difficulty about our accepting the suggestion of the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, if he had been pleased to accept the principle of the motion and then to suggest that there should be a committee for working out a scheme. As he is not prepared to do that let this resolution be accepted now; but, so far as the details are concerned, we cannot discuss them here as to whether a Deputy Magistrate should be placed under a Judge or that half of the Deputy Magistrates should be placed under the Collector and the other half under the Judge. That should certainly have to be decided by a committee. That is the right position and I would bow to such a decision, but instead of that, I find that the Government is not prepared to accept the situation and therefore it is our bounden duty to carry this resolution first and then to try to have a committee afterwards presided over by a High Court Judge, say, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Greaves or some such other Judge. If that is not going to be accepted, then it would be our bounden duty to pass this resolution. Otherwise, if a committee is allowed to sit now for discussing this question, it would take years and years, probably 30 or 40 years more, to arrive at a decision; for this much is certain that the Government of Bengal is opposed to the very idea of separation. The Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler has traced the history of the matter from 1856 onwards. That alone shows what regard is paid to public opinion in this country. It declares in most eloquent terms what a scant regard is paid by the Government to a long and consistent flow of public opinion. Then, it has been said by Sir Henry Wheeler that so far as the modern history of the movement is concerned, in 1901, Lord Hobhouse, Sir William Wedderburn and others, and big Judges like Sir Richard Couch and Sir Richard Garth reported in favour of the abolition of the system, and we find that the Government tersely said at that time that the "united system was at present essential." That had a bureaucratic twang about it. Whatever you choose to say, whether you are Judges of the High Court or the Chief Justice of the High Court, or

other eminent persons, we, the people of the Civil Service, are determined to continue this united system for ever. That is the whole story. That is the long and short of it. And I think that if we only resolve to have a committee, as suggested by Sir Henry Wheeler, and nothing more, then it would go on for years and years to no useful purpose. That will be mere shelving of the question, and, as such, that will not do. If we have the power we must pass this resolution at once. We must insist upon the Government effecting a separation If we have to go to the Government of India for it, we should do so. The Lord Chief Justice of England has now come as our Viceroy, and if ever there was a time when we should insist upon the question of a separation between the executive and the judicial being taken up, it is now, when the Lord Chief Justice of England has come out as Viceroy. We are sure to have a sympathetic solution of the question from him. But if we unfortunately find in him a person who is not willing to lend a sympathetic ear to our prayer, then we shall know that the air of the Red Sea has changed his character. Therefore, as I say, this is the time to pass the resolution, and if we fail here, we should go to the Government of India. And if the Viceroy does not do anything, we should take further steps, though I do not at present know what further steps we should take.

Then as regards the merits of the question. I think it is an insult to the intelligence of the House to say anything on the merits of this question now. Mere civilisation wants this—civilization demands that there should be a separation between the executive and the judicial. It is but right to say that this system is a part of the bureaucratic Government who fear that there should be no *izzat* for the District Officer if a separation is effected. As some District Officer told me they must have control over everything, *i.e.*, they must be the lords of all they survey. That is why Sir Henry Wheeler wanted to support the existing system. And the arguments which he put forward had nothing new in them.

There is another aspect of the question on which I want to say something, as it has not been pressed before this House. A very great reason—perhaps the strongest reason for effecting a change—is that you would make your police honest by making your magistracy independent of the police. There are very few Civilians who do understand this. I have passed years dealing with cases about the police and the magistracy, and I can assure this House that, if the people once know that there is a trying Magistrate who is an *insaf karna walla* and who is going to do justice, irrespective of whatever the police might say, then the dishonest element in the police will not be there at all. The Deputy Magistrate trembles at the frowns of the Superintendent of Police. What is he to do? The Superintendent and the District Magistrate are practically one and the same, so far as their interests are concerned. Everybody knows that. But nobody repeats it.

Every endeavour is made to shut it out. The whole country knows this and it is useless to try to disguise it. The fact is, that if you want to make the police honest, you must effect this radical change. An addition of Rs. 50 or Rs. 100 to the pay of the darogas will not make them honest. I can assure my hon'ble friends that a daroga of a big thana like Canning Town earns, sometimes, about Rs. 2,000 a month. I say this from my position here and I take the fullest responsibility for saying this. I am prepared to prove everything up to the hilt, and I challenge contradiction. Why is it so? Because people verily believe that as the judgment of the Magistrate is most likely to uphold the police view, they had better invest a good amount in securing the police on their side. Money is not cheap. People do not pay the police for nothing. They pay because they know that in the long run it would be to their advantage to pay to the police. That is the whole situation, and therefore if you want to make the police less corrupt, I will ask the higher servants of the Government here to see that the magistracy is relieved from police control. Remove the root-cause and the result will melt away. That is absolutely certain. Do not lay the flattering unction to your soul, that by an addition of pay you will make the police honest, when it is an open secret that many of them often earn Rs. 1,500 or Rs. 2,000 a month. Therefore, in your persistency for preserving your prestige, you are in a manner perpetuating this corruption in the police by keeping the magistracy under the control of the police. I was perfectly surprised to read in this morning's newspaper that the Chief Presidency Magistrate on an application for reducing the amount of bail said something to this effect: "I cannot do anything unless I consult so and so in charge of that police case." If you cannot do anything without first consulting that police officer, then why are you there at all? Why should an application be made before you? That shows how unhealthy the system is. It has run on in such a vicious line that even the Chief Presidency Magistrate sitting in a place like Calcutta hesitates to pass an order without first—not hearing but—consulting the police. Therefore, if you want to make the police less corrupt, then by all means introduce this change; if you want to make them less corrupt, you must strike at the very foundation of the mischief. No amount of tinkering will do. No amount of residential houses for the police will do. Do not shut your eyes to it. If you do shut your eyes you will simply encourage them.

The PRESIDENT: You are not to address the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, but you are to address the chair.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I was addressing the President and not Sir Henry Wheeler, and the Secretary is not the President here.

The PRESIDENT: You have no business to inquire what the Secretary was doing. He was only doing his duty.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: Your word is law here, Sir, I know.

One thing more and I am done. We have nothing to do in these days with the views of Sir John Shore. We need not quote ancient history. We need only the administration to justify itself. Has Sir Henry Wheeler been able to cite one single fact or to give one single reason to justify the present situation as to why this should be continued? In spite of the repeated opinions of congresses, conferences, meetings here and meetings in England of most respectable, educated and cultured men with special knowledge in this line, nothing has been done. What is the clear position now? Why? It is this, that the Government must perpetuate this evil because this evil helps them in their policy of the repression of the children of the soil. That is the whole underlying idea. We know it. Whatever may be said on the other side we are not prepared to accept it. All the arguments that have been put forward by Sir Henry Wheeler were bombarded long ago,—not by an humble man like myself—but by men in the position of Lord Hobhouse, Sir Richard Couch, Sir Richard Garth and other eminent persons like the late Mr Monmohan Ghose and Mr. R. C. Dutt who, in those days as things go, could have risen to the position of the Viceroy of India. All those theories have been bombarded and those arguments are nowhere now. And what is the argument for persisting on in this line? It is nothing but *zid* and prestige and nothing more. Sir, the time has come when the Government must change their methods—the country is getting alive every day to the situation around. People are realising their position every day and we, the children of the soil, are realising every day that we have got at no distant date to be a self-respecting nation. The policy inaugurated by Sir John Shore, 150 years ago, and the opinion that the people of this country like to be governed by an autocrat—all these things are things of the past. They are hopeless anachronisms which are insults to our present-day ideals. If you do not treat us as we now want, you cannot expect this form of Government to last. And now as the Lord Chief Justice of England has come here as the Viceroy and now that the Reforms have been introduced, I ask the House to carry this resolution, as this is an eminently suitable opportunity. We can no longer believe on pledges that have been made nor rely on promises that were made to the ear and broken to the heart. We must support the motion now before us. We must work out our own salvation. We must do all that we can in this line. We must leave no stone unturned. Do not for one moment look to the bureaucratic Government for support, for their policy is such that they are bound to oppose it.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: After what has fallen from previous speakers and a sort of assurance which Sir Henry Wheeler

has given to us, I think I need not speak at length on the subject. What I want is that let the Member in charge accept the resolution in so many words. What he assures is surely covered by the resolution, and I do not understand what objection there can be in accepting it. Sir, let us resolve upon a speedy introduction of this reform. After we have once made up our minds sincerely, there would be schemes enough to select from and adopt and I am confident that ways and means would be found to give effect to the selected scheme.

The House knows very well how keen the demand is in the country for the separation of judicial and executive functions. As a member of the zamindar community, I can further add that the demand is keener from this community. Zamindars have to come in frequent contact with officials vested with both executive and judicial powers and the zamindars are perhaps the worst sufferers under the present system. We are so much at the mercy of the District Officers, simply because of the union of these two functions, that we have actually got to refrain from all movements which may have the remotest possibility of displeasing any of the executive officers. And, Sir, this is one of the reasons why the zamindars as a class have been brought down so low in public estimation. Whenever there is any public movement, if rightly or wrongly we do not join it, we are openly held up as cowards, and taunting remarks are made, "Oh, he is a zamindar, how can he do otherwise."

I beg of the House to realise our humiliating position and to help us to get out of this position and make us free men by introducing the much-needed reform as early as possible.

Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED: I beg to support the resolution. The matter has already been dealt with at some length and there is very little left for me to speak on the subject. There never has been so popular a cry as this separation of the judicial from the executive functions of this administration of justice.

The PRESIDENT: Will you speak louder? I cannot hear you. You can come nearer if you like.

Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED: Two things have been mentioned against this—one is prestige and the other is money. As to money, I beg to say that we have been asked during the Budget discussion to spend more than 11 crores of rupees on many matters, but in a matter like the separation of the judicial from the executive functions the money could not be found. When this is a necessity, money must be found out for this purpose. As to prestige, I would, like to say that it reminds me of a story of the frogs and the boys that, while it was play to the boys, it was death to the frogs. The question of prestige has nothing to do with this here. It may be the prestige to Government officers, but it is a life and death question to us. So the question of

prestige should not be allowed to prevail in this matter. Besides in the resolution and in Mr. Dutt's amendment, it is suggested that the Deputy Magistrate should be somewhat of a Munsif who would have to decide criminal cases. From our experience we find that the promotion of police officers more or less depends on convictions, and whenever police officers send up cases they take more personal interest in the cases than the complainants. They want conviction somehow or other. I know from my personal experience that these police officers are more or less bazar-sircars to the Magistrates, though this practice is now going to be given up. In case of an acquittal the investigating police officer has to submit an explanation to the higher officers, and is thus put to shame and humiliation. So they somehow or other want to please the Magistrate to secure conviction and the trying Magistrates pass convictions in many cases for fear of incurring the displeasure of the District Magistrate. Besides there is the magic wand in the hands of the Magistrates, *i.e.*, summary procedure. It requires only three minutes to put a man into three months' imprisonment without recording any evidence. So if these powers are to be given to the Magistrates, lives will not be very safe. That is why it has been suggested that there should be a separation between executive and judicial functions. I have heard that British people are always very keen about justice and I know that they are dispensing that justice; and now I think it is high time that they should begin to do so more completely here than they have hitherto done. With the advent of our popular Viceroy, who was the Lord Chief Justice of England——

The PRESIDENT: That has been said several times and you need not repeat it.

Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED: In Bengal, the premier province of India, this separation should begin at once, so that we may have even-handed justice.

Mr. F. A. LARMOUR: I am afraid that after the eloquence of previous speakers I feel rather like a lost soul struggling under the weight of adverse opinion for some way in which to put my thoughts into words. We have had authors and literature on India quoted to us. We have had Mr. R. C. Dutt and many of his sayings quoted. We have been told that he would have been fit to be Viceroy of India if he had been alive to-day. Sir, I had the honour of Mr. Dutt's acquaintance and I treasure the memory of much that took place between him and myself, but I must say that the opinions of Mr. Dutt varied on different occasions—it depended whether he spoke as District Officer, or afterwards as platform orator. In one case (on page 86 of his work, "Peasantry of Bengal"), speaking of the zamindars, he was particularly severe on them. Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray spoke of the good opinion that he earned from officers and people alike. Mr. Dutt speaking

of the Bengal raiyat, wrote: "Poor Bengal raiyat! Hope for relief from a handful of alien rulers of the country, but from thine own countrymen don't." In many other ways Mr. Dutt supported the present system of Government. Those who have read two of his books, viz., "Peasantry of Bengal," and "Famines and Land Assessment in India," know that in speaking of the system of the executive and judicial functions Mr. Dutt said: "We do not know how far the employment of barristers and vakils by private parties in the superior courts served the purpose of justice." Speaking of the mufassal criminal courts he said that "there the procedure was very simple and, except perhaps in a few serious cases, the parties need not be represented at all."

I feel at the same time after all that I have heard that still I would like to say what I had all along intended to say on this question. I look at it first as a commercial man and view it from that standpoint. Two questions occur to me first, what is the cost, and second, is it necessary? In my notes I have dealt with the cost first, and therefore, I proceed on those lines. Almost every speaker who has spoken on any subject which has reference to our Budget expenditure has taken exception to certain items. We have been reminded that this is an adversity Budget; we have been told that expenses on the preservation of law and order must be cut down and that the crying needs of the country are sanitation, pure drinking water, a fight with malaria and the like; yet in the resolution now before the Council—a momentous question—we have no statistics of any kind to guide us. We are asked to support a scheme which so long ago as 1908 was estimated to cost as much as fifteen lakhs of rupees a year in Bengal alone. I shudder to think what the annual cost would be at the present time. I believe we may safely put it down at double that figure. Several speakers have warned the Government of any increase in taxation and my friend, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, sounded a note of warning in one of his many eloquent speeches in this Council by saying "he would be a bold man indeed who attempted to impose any increase in the taxation of the people." Here I see eye to eye with him, yet this question of the separation of the judicial and executive functions will certainly enormously increase the cost of Government. Increase of taxation provokes discontent, the country is constantly crying out against increase in taxation and one is naturally prompted to ask why add to the existing cost of Government by introducing changes, the benefit of which is more than doubtful, whilst the increase in cost is alone absolutely certain. We have no scheme before us to criticise. I shall therefore only make some observations in the proposed change of system, as in my opinion the results of the change would be to weaken the executive. A strong executive is vital to the interests of the commercial community a section of which I represent in this Council. It is said that the faults of the present system are manifested in the ordinary appellate divisional work of the higher judicial tribunals but, if

in the face of an educated public, expert in law, and prone to litig tion, the instances in which such faults have been brought into t courts are so few as to be practically negligible, it cannot be said th the system has failed. It has been argued that the people are qu ready to assert their rights against Government or its servants, th they seldom do so must be taken to show that these rights are n infringed under the present administration.

The objections to the present system are merely theoretical, a their applicability to it is extremely attenuated. Moreover, the la furnishes abundant safeguards to correct any miscarriage of justice th may occur. Any miscarriage is promptly brought to light. A illegal act done by an officer subjects him to liability to be sued f damages. Such safeguards are furnished by codes which have be repeatedly amended where actual experience has shown amendment t be necessary. To change the system and introduce a new one wou be to establish a need for fresh experience and to wipe out a larg amount of the experience gained through years of patient work a observation.

So far as my experience goes—and those whom I have consult who are engaged in the commerce of this country agree with me—the is no demand among the people at large for any such change. It mu not be forgotten that even in Bengal the educated class is vastly ou numbered by the illiterate; St. Nihal Singh in an article in the *Londo magazine* of April 1921, received here by last mail, puts it down at 9 to 1, and it has yet to be proved that the aspirations of the lawyer an student classes are shared by the people. On the other hand the pre sent system is both effective and economical. It has stood the test c criticism and has not been damaged; this is because the system is popu lar It must be remembered that it is not English, but racy of the soil it is the *ma bap* system and has its roots deep down in the Orienta need of a personal rule. This may be primitive, but no convincing argument has been brought to show that it is inapplicable to ever present-day conditions.

The last few years—in fact even the present time—have brought into strong relief the injury done by the repercussion of political fermen upon trade and industry. As a representative of commercial interest in the country I feel strongly that the best guarantee for the mainten ance of law and order is a strong magistracy. It is essential that the powers and prestige of the District Magistrate should be preserved intact. I cannot but feel that the proposed change would lower his prestige and undermine his power. It is admitted that the District Magistrate actually disposes of only a few important cases, but it is in my opinion eminently desirable that they should remain vested with judicial authority in order that they may be free to deal judicially with any case arising in the district. Surely a District Magistrate may be

trusted to deal impartially with the sort of case which arises in the mufassal.

A District Officer travelling through villages in his district is enabled to get in direct touch and intimate knowledge of the people, their wants and grievances. His business is to do justice amongst the people, protect them, and look to their welfare as a judge posted to the headquarters of a district could not possibly do. The introduction of purely English ideas without reference to their suitability is bound to prove disastrous It is better to let any necessary reforms be developments of the existing system than to start a new system, simply for theoretical reasons based on English views and systems which have been developed under an entirely alien set of circumstances. The concentration of power works well in Indian States, where it is in vogue. The suggested change is advocated by persons who are not responsible for the maintenance of peace, and the present, to my thinking, is not the time for inaugurating changes of this character. The peace enjoyed in the Indian States is due to strong executives. Cow-killing riots such as have been experienced in Bombay, Calcutta and other parts of British India are not known in the States. Take Hyderabad for instance. Whatever may be the case in the other presidencies, in Bengal at least, where we have the permanent settlement, the revenue work is relatively unimportant. The police under the present system have a responsible officer at their head, and if the District Officer is merely to dispose of miscellaneous work it is useless to dispute that he will not stand out, as he now does, the representative of Government in the district. This would be no gain, but a decided loss. I would quote S. M. Mitra's admirable book, "Indian Problems," pages 229 to 258, where the arguments in favour of the present system are fully marshalled.

There may have been, in the past, a few cases of miscarriage of justice owing to the combination of the two functions in the same officer, but one has hardly ever heard of any such cases in recent years in Bengal, because new conditions have rendered its occurrence difficult, if not impossible. The fierce light of public opinion, the right of interpellation in the enlarged Council and the scathing criticism in the press have put an end to this. This costly scheme should not, therefore, be sanctioned for mere sentimental reasons.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I move that the question be now put.

The motion that the question be now put was put and agreed to.

The amendment (item No. 16 in the list of business) was then put.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I ask for a division.

At this stage the Council adjourned for 15 minutes.

The Council re-assembled at 6-25 P.M.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: May I ask what is the proposition which is now before the Council.

The PRESIDENT: Mr. A. C. Dutt's amendment (item No. 16 in the list of business) was put and a division was asked for, and that the point on which the Council will now divide.

The result of the division was as follows:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur,
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra,
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.

NOES.

Afzal, Khan Bahadur, Nawabzada K. M.
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bompas, Mr. C. H.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das, Mr. S. R.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Donald, Mr. J.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Faroqui, K. G. M.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble.
Marr, Mr. A.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
O'Kinealy Lt.-Col. Frederick.
Pugh, Colonel A. J.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr, Tarit Bhusan.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh.
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Saila;a Nath.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.,
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 14 and the Noes 59, the motion was lost.

Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri's original motion was then put and agreed to.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I beg leave to withdraw my motion (item No. 17 in the list of business), as I think it is no longer necessary.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I also beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

The motions withdrawn were as follows:—

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: "This Council recommends to the Government that the separation of the judicial and the executive functions in the administration should be carried out without any delay, if possible, by dividing the members of the provincial service into two classes of Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, the former exercising only judicial powers in criminal cases and the appellate powers of the Magistrate being exercised by senior Deputy Magistrates from whom Assistant Sessions Judges and Sessions Judges should be partly recruited."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA to move, by way of amendment to motion No. 17, "that the words 'and the appellate powers of the Magistrates being exercised by senior Deputy Magistrates from whom Assistant Sessions Judges and Sessions Judges should be partly recruited,' be omitted."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I beg to withdraw my motion with permission to bring it up in the next session in July.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: The same prayer.

The motions were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn with permission to bring it up in the next session in July. They were as follows:—

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "This Council recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken to give effect to the resolution carried in the Bengal Legislative Council on the 7th April, 1915, for the establishment of a City Civil Court in Calcutta."

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: "This Council recommends to the Government that early steps be taken to give effect to the resolution passed at a meeting of this Council for the establishment of a City Civil Court for Calcutta for the trial of suits up to Rs. 10,000 in value."

Non-official Chairmen.

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: "This Council recommends to the Government that they be pleased to direct that no official member of Local Boards in Bengal should stand for election as Chairman thereof."

Local self-government as a conscious process of administrative devolution and political evolution dates, outside Presidency towns, from the financial reforms of Lord Mayo's Government. Legislature affecting the province began primarily under Lord Ripon, and, after his monumental work, when district and sub-district boards were formed, a series of Acts were passed to grant financial independence to, and effect a reduction of, official control over these boards; to-day these stand nearly on equal footing with similar institutions in the civilised countries of East and West. The object of this resolution, this afternoon, is to remove one of the few shortcomings still existing.

An official President, even an elected one, in the local board is rather anomalous in the light of recent developments and contradictory to the spirit of the Reforms. Most of the district boards have got the non-official Chairmen and the few still left will have the privilege very soon. His Excellency the Governor said in the District Board Conference year before last: "The decision of Government to empower district boards to elect their own Chairman constituted the greatest advance in local self-government since the time when district boards came into existence under the administration of Lord Ripon." On the other side, under the Village Self-Government Act: " Every union board shall be presided over by a President, who shall be elected by the members of the union from among their own number." Here, also, a non-official President is an established fact. It is certainly inconsistent now that local boards, the connecting links between the two extremes, will have officials still at its head. If by local self-government we mean " the system of government under which the greatest number of minds, knowing the most and having the fullest opportunities of knowing about the special matter in hand and having the greatest interests in its well-working, have the management of it or control over it," and if the authorities accept the spirit of the various recommendations of the responsible bodies, formed from time to time to report on this vital matter, there is no other alternative than to have non-official elected Chairmen in all the rural boards. In the recommendations of the Committee appointed by Lord Chelmsford, in 1916, we find that " it should be followed by an extension of the system of elected Chairmen. It is hoped that the election of Chairmen will be the general rule in future." Again, "in case of rural boards and local boards Government will be urged to appoint non-official and perfectly elected Chairmen."

Coming to the practical side of the question, we find that the arguments in favour of a non-official elected Chairman in the district boards, hold equally strong here. An official, when he so desires, is in almost all cases, elected Chairman of a local board and, when once elected, controls it, in fact. This is just what is not wanted in the proper development of local self-government. In the original resolutions, in 1881, in the despatch of Lord Ripon we find that "there appears to him to be great force in the argument that so long as the Chief Executive Officers are Chairmen of District Committees, there is little chance of these Committees affording any effective training to their members in the management of local affairs. The non-official members must feel that real power is placed in their hands and that they have real responsibilities. The Governor-General in Council, therefore, would wish to see non-official persons acting, whenever practical, as Chairmen of local boards." Again, in the Montagu-Chelmsford report we find that, " If our proposals for changes in higher levels are to be a success, there

must be no hesitation of faltering about changes in local boards. Responsible institutions will not be stably rooted, until they become broad-based, and farsighted Indian politicians will find no better field in which their energy can be more profitably thrown than in developing the boroughs and communes of the country."

Numerous utterances, both official and non-official, can be quoted, and a host of arguments, exhaustively discussed in the press and public, can be brought forward to show the desirability of having non-official Chairmen in local boards, and so I do not like to tax the patience of the House any more. Government cannot justly recede back and refuse the local boards the privileges which they have granted to the district and union boards.

With these few words, Sir, I earnestly commend the resolution to the acceptance of the House.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): I think I shall best consult the convenience of the House and simplify matters of I say at once that I accept the resolution of my hon'ble friend The district boards having been given the right of electing their non-official Chairmen, a similar concession to the local boards could not be resisted with anything like consistency, logic or common-sense, for the powers and responsibilities of district boards are far larger and far more onerous than those of the local boards. The question might therefore be asked—how it was that this concession had so long been deferred in the case of the local boards? I think I have a simple answer to give and I trust it will be accepted as satisfactory by this Council. I think the difficulty so far as I can understand, which arose in the mind of Government in this connection was that perhaps in the small areas with these small responsibilities it would be difficult to find suitable men. I fear it was the apprehension that the proper kind of men, duly qualified, would not be forthcoming to discharge the responsibilities of Chairmen of the local boards that lay at the bottom of the hesitation which Government showed in this connection. But communities grow, ideals grow, Governments also grow, and we feel that occasions and opportunities create men, and that if we accord to the local boards the opportunities which they desire in this connection and which have been so eloquently set forth by my hon'ble friend, the suitable kind of men would be forthcoming. It is in this hope and in this confidence that Government desires to make this concession to the local boards. Let me remind the members of this Council and members of the district boards who are here that a right always connotes an obligation, and I hope and trust on behalf of the Government and I may also add on behalf of the House, that the local boards and the representatives of the local boards will recognise the concession which has been made, will rise to the height of their civic duties, justify the trust reposed in them,

and qualify themselves for these higher duties which, under the new readjustment of our local institutions, await them in the near future. For let it not be forgotten that the system of local self-government is but a part and parcel of the broader system of responsible government; that it is the basic foundation upon which this great and majestic fabric rests. I desire to remind the House of the recommendation contained in the Montagu-Chelmsford Scheme, which says, that so far as may be, popular control shall be accorded to the local bodies. Let me say this, on behalf of the Government, that it will be its earnest endeavour to give effect to this recommendation, to make the system of local self-government co-ordinate with that of responsible government which has brought us into existence and which I am perfectly confident has a great and brilliant future before it. With these words I beg to accept this resolution.

The resolution was then put and agreed to.

Telegraphic communications with the Island of Sandwip.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "This Council recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken to open telegraphic communications between the mainland and the island of Sandwip in the Chittagong Division."

At the outset I should thank the Government for the sympathetic treatment which has been accorded to me in this connection. I have already received a letter on the 2nd instant from the Secretary to Government saying that some correspondence is going on with regard to the opening of this telegraphic communication. Sandwip is an island which is at the mouth of the Megna and really commands the western coast of Chittagong, the coast of Noakhali and Shahabazpur in Barisal. It has also got some strategic value. It is an important island. It has got a Munsif's court, a Sub-Deputy Collector's Court, a police-station, some six or seven post offices and more than a lakh of inhabitants. The Rivers Steam and India General Navigation Companies have got their steamer stations. During the rains, it becomes almost impossible for country boats to ply between Noakhali and Sandwip. It sometimes happens that for three or four days, when ordinary postal communications are cut off, the people there are entirely isolated, having no other means of communication. Sandwip can claim special consideration at the hands of Government, because it supplied a large number of recruits during the war and a large number of its people are still in the labour force in Bogra and other places. So I hope and trust that Government will kindly accept this resolution.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): This resolution asks us to take immediate steps to open telegraphic communication with the island of Sandwip. The local

Government have of course no power to establish telegraphic communication anywhere; they can only ask or recommend the Telegraph Department, which is an Imperial Department, to establish such communication, and one of the rules under which the Telegraph Department works is that where it is doubtful whether a telegraph line will pay its expenses a guarantee against loss on working and maintaining it must be provided. I am afraid there is no doubt that this communication with Sandwip would not pay, and whoever supplies the guarantee would have to be prepared to lose a considerable sum per annum. This question, I find, was examined in 1919 when certain local bodies made representations to His Excellency the Governor on the subject. We then ascertained that the guarantee which would be required for this line would amount to Rs. 16,006 per annum. That seems to be a somewhat high figure, and I have asked the Postmaster-General whether he adheres to that figure at the present day. The Postmaster-General has kindly promised to have a revised estimate drawn up, but he warns us that the guarantee is bound to be considerable because it would be necessary to lay a cable to connect Sandwip with the existing telegraphic line on the main land, and cables are one of those things which, after the war, are very expensive. However, when I get the Postmaster-General's revised estimate, I shall be glad to communicate it to the mover and to any other members who are interested in this question. Meanwhile we may take it that we cannot get this telegraphic communication established unless we are prepared to put up a guarantee of several thousand rupees a year. Government are not prepared to pay any large sum by way of guarantee, because the administrative advantages of a telegraphic connection with Sandwip are not sufficient to justify any considerable expenditure. It would no doubt be convenient to have a telegraph station at Sandwip, but there are many other matters of greater urgency to which we should give preference if we had money available at this time of financial stringency. I fear, therefore, that there is no prospect of getting this line established unless the local people are prepared to put up the guarantee. I am very sorry to have to be unsympathetic to a place like Sandwip, whose inhabitants are deserving of great consideration owing to their loyal services during the war, but at the present time I do not feel justified on behalf of Government in accepting the resolution. I can only say that when we get the revised estimate from the Postmaster-General we shall be glad to discuss this matter further with the mover of the resolution.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: In view of what has been said by the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr and of the assurance given by him that he will allow me to discuss the question further with him later on when he hears from the Postmaster-General, I beg leave to withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following amendment was also withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ to move, by way of amendment to motion No. 22, "that for the words 'the mainland' the word 'Noakhali' be substituted."

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned to 3 P.M. on the following day (the 6th April, 1921), at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council assembled at 3 P.M. on Wednesday, the 6th April, 1921, in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 93 nominated and elected members.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): The following telegram was sent by me to His Excellency the Viceroy on Monday last at the request of the Council :—

"Bengal Legislative Council in meeting assembled offer respectful welcome to Your Excellency on assumption of high office of Viceroy of India."

I have received the following telegram from His Excellency's private Secretary in reply :—

"His Excellency desires me to thank you and the Bengal Legislative Council very warmly for your kind telegram of welcome on his assumption of the high office of Viceroy."

Starred Question

(to which an oral answer was given).

Muhammadans for Bengal Judicial Service.

***XXVI. Mr. SYED ERFAN ALI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state what is the present number of candidates enrolled for appointment in the Bengal Judicial Service?

(*b*) How many Muhammadans were enrolled candidates and were refused appointments during the last ten years in this service?

(*c*) What is the proportion of the Muhammadans in the service and their grade?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the proportion of Muhammadans in the Judicial Service is very small?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the advisability of recommending to the Hon'ble the High Court the desirability of giving precedence

to Muhammadan candidates in filling up appointments in the Judicial Service?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (*a*) One hundred and forty-three (of these six are Muhammadans).

(*b*)

	Enrolled.	Appointed.	Refused Appointments
1911	1	1	Nil
1912	Nil	Nil	1
1913	2	1	Nil
1914	Nil	Nil	Nil
1915	Nil	1	Nil
1916	1	Nil	Nil
1917	2	Nil	Nil
1918	3	Nil	2
1919	2	1	1
1920	2	3	Nil
Total ...	13	7	4

(*c*) 4·7 per cent.

Strength of the cadre	293
Number of Muhammadans	14
Sub Judges below the selection grades	2
Munsifs—	
1st grade	1
2nd grade	1
3rd grade	3
4th grade	3
Offg. Munsifs	4
Total ...	14

(*Vide* list on next page.)

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) The Member is referred to the answer given to the unstarred questions No. 150 (*i*) and (*ii*) asked by Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir Ali on 1st April, 1921.

List referred to in the reply to starred question No. XXVI (c).

No.	Name.	Grade.	REMARKS.
	Sub-Judges.		
1	Iradatulla, Barrister-at-law ...	III, 10	Now acting as additional District and Sessions Judge, Faridpur
2	Osman Ali, B.L. ...	III, 37	Sub-Judge, Dacca
	Munsifs.		
3	Abdul Khaliq, B.L. ...	I, 5	Now acting as Sub-Judge, Noakhali.
4	Lutfar Rahman, B.L. ...	II, 49	Munsif, Serampore.
5	Hasibuddin Ahmad, B.L. ...	III, 8	Do., Midnapore
6	Muhammad Ibrahim Hussain, B.L.	III, 47	Do., Tamluk
7	Sayidur Rahman, M.A., B.L.	III, 48	Do., Hooghly
8	Paziruddin Ahmad, B.L. ...	IV, 27	Do, Gaibandha
9	Saiyid Amjad Ali, B.L. ...	IV, 60	Do., Narail.
10	Muhammad Abul Ahsan, M.A., B.L.	IV, 96	Offg. Munsif On deputation to the Settlement Department
11	Altaf Ahmad, B.L. ...	No. 18 in the offg. list.	Offg. Munsif On deputation to the Settlement Department
12	Tafail Ali Khondkar, B.L. ...	No. 42 in the offg. list.	Offg. additional Munsif, Iswarganj.
13	Mazheruddin Ahmad, Barrister-at-law	No. 45 in the offg list.	Offg. Munsif, Barisal
14	Sahabuddin Ahmad, B.L. ...	No. 53 in the offg. list.	Offg Munsif, Chandpur.

Unstarred Questions
(answers to which were laid on the table).

Holding of a Munsifi Court at Bhola late in the evening and inconvenience caused thereby.

154. Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware that Babu Pratap Chandra Sen Gupta, a Munsif at Bhola in the district of Bakarganj, usually holds court up till 7 and 7-30 P.M.?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that this is in direct violation of the High Court circulars and that it causes inconvenience and trouble to the pleaders and litigant public?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking any action in the matter?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) and (*b*) No. Out of 142 working days, from 30th July, 1920, to 19th March, 1921, the Munsif sat on two days up to 7-30 P.M., on three days up to 7 P.M., on five days up to 6-30 P.M., and on two days up to 6-15 P.M. On the remaining days he rose between 5 and 6 P.M. These few sittings were due to unusual pressure of work and cannot be altogether avoided.

(*c*) No.

Non-observance of the procedure of order-sheet being signed by vakils of the parties in the Munsifs' Courts at Comilla.

155. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware—

(*i*) that the order-sheet in the Munsifs' Courts at Comilla is not daily signed by the Vakils of the parties; and

(*ii*) that the omission of this procedure causes harassment, as very often postponements are granted when the parties are present and cases are dismissed when the parties are absent?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of cases dismissed;

(*ii*) the number of cases reviewed;

(*iii*) the number of cases allowed; and

(*iv*) the number of cases appealed against review;

in the courts of Comilla in 1920?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) (*i*) It is a fact that order-sheets in all cases dealt with on each day in the Munsifs' Courts at Comilla are not daily signed by the pleaders of the parties. Rule 49, Chapter I, page 17, of the High Court's General Rules and Circular Orders, Civil, however, requires a list of all cases to be posted up at the close of each day in which dates have been fixed for hearing or adjourned hearing in the course of that day. This rule is carried out. The signature of the pleader of the party on the order-sheet is not required by any rule, except where any particular order directs anything to be done by the party (Rule 18, Chapter III, page 87, of the High Court's General Rules and Circular Orders, Civil). This rule is observed.

(*ii*) Postponements are not granted, except on the applications of the parties and on account of the want of time of the Court.

(*b*) The following statistics only are available and partially supply the information sought to be elicited:—

(*i*) Out of a total of 20,809 suits disposed of in 1920, the number of cases dismissed for default (absence of plaintiff in most cases) and for want of prosecution was 2,982.

(*ii*) The number of applications for setting aside judgments passed on default was 425.

(*iii*) The number of such applications granted was 421. (These figures include applications for setting aside *ex-parte* judgments also, of which the number preferred was 674. No separate statistics are kept of the number of such applications granted).

(*iv*) The number of miscellaneous appeals preferred against orders refusing to set aside judgments passed on default is 19.

Average expense incurred in training Indian nurses and in maintaining the staff.

156. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to furnish a comparative statement regarding the following points in connection with the training of Indian nurses at different centres in Calcutta, such as the Lady Dufferin Hospital, the Eden Hospital and the Lady Carmichael Nursing School at the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital:—

(*i*) the average cost of running the establishment of the above-mentioned three hospitals per year;

(*ii*) the average cost of training a nurse for full course;

(*iii*) the average cost of training a nurse per year;

(*iv*) the personnel of the nursing staff, with their qualifications, pay, allowance, house rents, etc.;

(*v*) the maximum number of nurses which can be admitted every year;

(*vi*) the total number of nurses now under training;

(*vii*) the average number of nurses passed out during the last three years?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the actual number of the members of the staff, with their designation, accommodated at 3, Lee Road, which has been acquired at a cost of Rs. 90,125 for the Lady Carmichael Nursing Scheme;

(*ii*) on what grounds was the Kalimpong centre of the Lady Carmichael Nursing Scheme found unnecessary and consequently abolished?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): (*a*) (*i*) to (*vii*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) (*i*) One Nursing Superintendent. One Assistant Nursing Superintendent (post vacant).

(*ii*) The Kalimpong centre of the Lady Carmichael Nursing Scheme has not been abolished.

Statement containing the information asked for in unstarred question No. 156 (a).

Names of institutions.	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	(vii)
	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.				
Lady Dufferin Victoria Hospital.	60,000	855 0 0	310 0 0	1 Matron—Rs. 225 + Rs. 25 per mensem. 1 Night Sister—Rs. 120 per mensem. *Qualifications.*—Both 3 years' training and English C.M.B. 1 Maternity Block Sister—Rs. 100 per mensem *Qualifications.*—Three years' training and Madras Midwifery 1 Theatre Nurse—Rs 80 per mensem. *Qualifications.*—Three years' training and Midwifery. 1 Indian Staff Nurse—Rs. 60 per mensem. 1 Indian Staff Nurse—Rs. 30 per mensem. 1 Indian Staff Nurse—Rs. 25 per mensem. *Qualifications.*—All three years' training with Midwifery. *Quarters.*—All provided with free furnished quarters and board.	5 for full training every year *plus.* 4 Hindu Nurses in 3½ years.	19	years
Eden Hospital †	*	140 0 0	120 0 0	1 Midwife—Rs. 45—75 per mensem + Rs 5 per mensem for Dhobie and + Rs. 5 per mensem for uniform. *Qualifications.*—Maternity Diploma. 4 Outnursing midwives—Rs. 60—90 per mensem + Rs. 5 per mensem for uniform + bonus 4 As. a day when out at a case. *Quarters, etc.*—All provided with free quarters, rations, fuel and light.	12	16	34

* Midwives and not *nurses* are trained in the Eden Hospital. There are 16 pupil midwives at this hospital.

† Figures showing the cost of running the hospital are not available, as the Eden Hospital forms part of the Medical College Hospitals, and separate accounts are not kept.

Names of institution.	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	(vii)
	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs A. P				
Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital	60,334	3,378 3 3	1,126 1 1	1 Nursing Superintendent—Rs 350—10—400 per mensem + Rs 150 for uniform per annum *Qualifications*—General training (3 years) at St George's Hospital, Bombay, and Midwifery (Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London) C.M B (London). 1 Deputy Nursing Superintendent—Rs 250—5—300 per mensem + Rs 100 for uniform per annum *Qualifications*—General training, Calcutta Medical College Hospital, and Midwifery (Eden Hospital, Calcutta) 1 Assistant Nursing Superintendent—Rs 200—5—250 per mensem + Rs 100 for uniform per annum. (Post now vacant) *Quarters*—All Superintendents provided with free furnished quarters with electric lights and fans 5 Staff Nurses—Rs. 40—5—75 each per mensem + Rs 12 for diet allowance per mensem each + Rs 25 for uniform per annum each *Qualifications*—Qualified in Medical and Surgical Nursing and Midwifery under Lady Carmichael's Nursing Scheme *Quarters*—Free quarters with electric lights. 6 Third-year Pupil Nurses—Rs. 20 each per mensem + Rs 12 per mensem each for diet allowance.	There is no fixed number, it depends upon the number of vacancies caused by the passing out of 3rd-year nurses in a year (with a maximum of 20)		

Names of institutions.	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	(vii)
	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.				
Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital—*concld.*	...	.....	.....	9 Second-year Pupil Nurses—Rs 15 each per mensem + Rs. 12 per mensem each for diet allowance. 5 First-year Pupil Nurses—Rs. 10 each per mensem + Rs 12 per mensem each for diet allowance *Quarters*—All pupil nurses provided with free quarters.	.....		

Resolutions

(under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest).

Closing of Government offices and courts on Fridays for the "Juma" prayers.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "This Council recommends to the Government that orders be passed for the suspension of business in all courts and Government offices in this province, for one hour every Friday, from 12-30 to 1-30 P.M., to enable the Muhammadans to say their *Juma* prayers."

The member spoke in Bengali in support of his motion, addressing the Council for 30 minutes.

Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY : The importance of *Juma* prayers need hardly be impressed upon the Mussalman members of the Council. But for the benefit of non-Muslim members I desire to point out that in Muslim countries, Friday is recognised as the sabbath day, and on every Friday the *Juma* prayers are offered with great pomp and ceremony. The king goes to the *Juma Musjid* with all the pomp and dignity of royalty and attends the prayer. The *Juma* prayer is the only prayer in the week which is offered in state and in public by the ruling sovereign in the *Juma Musjid*, and it is only at the *Juma* prayers that the *khutba* is read and the proclamation of the assumption of sovereignty by a new king is also publicly announced. The proclamation at the *Juma* prayers and the association of his name in the *khutba* is recognised as a sufficient exercise of the right of sovereignty equal to a public accession to the throne. The acceptance of the congregation amounts to a recognition of his sovereignty by all the Faithful, whether present or absent. These facts show the importance of the *Juma* prayers over the daily prayers. It is during the *Juma* prayers throughout the

Muslim world and throughout the British Empire in India and beyond, benediction is offered for the Commander of the Faithful, whose name as the Caliph of Islam is associated in the *khutba*. Indeed, do we not find that the *Khalifatul-Muslamin* himself performs in Constantinople the impressive ceremony of *Selamlik* with all the pomp and ceremony of state on Fridays after *Juma* prayers? I had the privilege of being attached to the staff of His late Majesty Amir Habibulla Khan of Afghanistan during his tour in 1908, and have seen the arrangements made in different places by the Government of India for his performing *Juma* prayers in public. Here, in this very city of Calcutta, which His Majesty visited as the then capital of the British Indian Empire, special arrangements were made and many of us remember the ceremony with which he attended the *Juma* prayers in the cathedral mosque in Lower Chitpur Road. I will not forget the scene of enthusiasm which was witnessed at Delhi when the main doors of the *Juma Musjid*, called the *Shahi Darwaza*, were thrown open for the Amir to enter the *Juma Musjid* in state. Muhammadans from far and near were attracted and flocked in large numbers to the mosque to attend the prayers. These facts, Sir, show the significance of the *Juma* prayers. Indeed the very existence of a special mosque—the *Juma Musjid*—in Delhi and other important Muhammadan towns, is a proof positive of the great importance the Muhammadans attach to the *Juma* prayers. As a further proof of its great importance I would ask the hon'ble members to visit Sundhuriapatty, Colootola, Sir Stuart Hogg Market, Chandney Chowk or Canning Street on a Friday morning, and there they will find the poor Muhammadan traders and shop-keepers closing their shops and suspending their business and hurrying off to neighbouring mosques to attend the *Juma* prayers. The *Juma* prayer is therefore recognised by Muhammadans of all classes as a very important function. The importance of *Juma* prayers over other prayers of the week is also recognised by Government, as we find that Government institutions like the Madrassas of Calcutta, Dacca and Chittagong and other places are closed on that day to allow the Muhammadans to say their prayers. We are very thankful to the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler for permitting for the past few years that the convicts in the Alipore Central Jail may say their *Juma* prayers. We hope that the privilege which has been allowed to the prisoners, will not be withheld from the free people, who frequent the law courts either as litigants, or witnesses, or as lawyers or clerks. (Several voices: "Hear, hear.") Every one knows that, what Sunday is to the Christians, what Saturday is to the Jews, that Friday is to the Muhammadans. The Christians get a full holiday on Sundays; the Jews a half-holiday on Saturdays. Will Government deny only one short hour's recess to the Mussalmans to say their prayers? Sir, is this not a very small and modest request?

We find that business is suspended everywhere in the law courts, including the highest in the land—the High Court of Judicature, every

day for lunch to enable the Judges and Magistrates to satisfy their physical needs. This is done for the benefit of the *Hakims* only, as the Indian litigants and office employees, who have their *dal bhat* at 10 in the morning, and do not require lunch at midday. Sir, will it be too much to ask for a suspension of business for an hour only once a week for our spiritual food? (Several voices: "Hear, hear.")

From the Government point of view, I think the encouragement of *Juma* prayers is very important.

The late Justice O'Kinealy, while dealing with the well-known Wahabi case—that great movement to subvert the British Government, the seriousness and magnitude of which is known to you much more than to myself—recognised that other things being equal, a Muslim who said his usual daily prayers but abstained from taking part in the *Juma* prayers may as a rough and ready method be looked upon with great suspicion. We all know of the conflagration that was fanned by this movement and extended from Chittagong to Chitral, and the valley of the Swat. Sir, the very steps of this historic hall were stained with the blood of the victim of Wahabi fanaticism—I refer to the tragic death of the acting Chief Justice of Bengal (John Norman) at the hands of a Wahabi in 1871. Justice O'Kinealy was not only an eminent Judge but also a great Orientalist. He knew Muslim politics and the Mussalmans very well. What O'Kinealy did not know about a Muslim question or a Muslim family from Peshawar to Shillong, one could take it, was not worth knowing. He said that those Mussalmans who performed the *Juma* prayers recognised and accepted British India as *Dar-al-Aman* (Home of Peace). Imagine what a great thing Government would be doing by encouraging Muhammadans to recognise that British rule in India does not create *Dar-al-Harb* (Home of war), that is an enemy country, where *jehad* or religious war could or should be waged. I have given an expert opinion from an expert of experts on Muhammadan questions. Government are doubtless aware of the *Faraizi* sect or the *Bey Juma* people; I need hardly take the time of the Council by repeating what their tenets and teachings are. I maintain that the encouragement of *Juma* prayers by Government would also materially help in counteracting the forces of evil let loose by the movement of non-co-operation. Sir, you are aware that the non-co-operation movement with all its potentiality for mischief, is also, among other things, urging the Muhammadans to believe that British India is *Dar-al-Harb* from where either one should migrate away (perform *hijrat*) or wage a holy war. We are now asking Government to afford facilities for the offering of *Juma* prayers. The request has come from non-official members. It has come from a quarter where official inspiration or influence could not be thought of. Therefore I request Government to very carefully consider this question and allow suspension of business for one hour on Fridays. We, most of the non-official Indian members, at any rate all the Muhammadan members, have come to this Council in spite of the

opposition, in spite of the calumny and odium that was cast on us, by the so-called "Khilafat Committee" and the non-co-operators. We have come here to co-operate with the Government, we have come here to help Government, where such help is possible. Will it be too much if we ask Government to co-operate with us? Help us in every small mattter, a very reasonable matter, by allowing only one hour's recess in the week?

We do not ask the people who do not say their prayers to suspend their work perforce. They can certainly employ the hour of recess in writing judgments, or going through a file if they are Magistrates or Judges. The *nakalnawis* can go on copying and the typist can do his typing if he is keen about it. But we feel that an official suspension of business will go a long way to afford facilities for saying the *Juma* prayers and will give satisfaction to a large body of men who appear in the law courts either as witnesses, clients, vakils, pleaders or as muharrirs or clerks, or are attached as Government servants in one capacity or other.

If according to existing Government circulars only the Muslim Government employees and Muslim lawyers and litigants are given leave and absented themselves from work, people will be chary of employing Muslims, on account of this invidious distinction which marks out the Muslims as working one hour less than others, whereas if an official suspension of business is established, this disadvantage is got over. Muslim holidays are few and far between, and their claims ought to be favourably considered in the light of this fact also. In this very Council, we find that it has been recognised that the Muhammadans should get fifteen minutes to say their evening prayers. The whole Council suspends business during this time. Those who do not pray utilise the time in taking tea, or in having their evening constitutional, or smoking and chatting in the lobby and the lounge. In any case, the importance of ordinary daily prayers has been recognised; and in the resolution before us we recommend that for the most important prayer of the week, only during the Muslim Sabbath, one hour's suspension of business be granted. In this matter all the non-official members of the Council, Hindus, Muslims, and Christians, are united. Let not Government alone stand in our way.

Maulvi HAMID-UD-DIN KHAN: The resolution just moved by my friend Shah Syed Emdadul Haq for suspension of business in all courts and Government offices for an hour for *Juma* prayer vitally concerns those who are the followers of Islam. This is not an educational, social or political question, but it is a question of religion, and it is the question of all questions. Any religious question to all, especially to Muhammadans, is sacred and should not be lightly dealt with. It is a matter relating to prayer, which brings man to the level of God when in direct communion with Him.

The prayer mentioned in the resolution is a weekly prayer, *i.e.*, *Juma* prayer for an hour on every Friday, assembled in mosques. The time for prayer is between 12-30 and 1-30 P.M. The time for this prayer is very short. As regards other prayers, say noon prayers, time is extended from 12-30 to 3-30 P.M., and afternoon prayers from 3-30 to 6 P.M., but the time for *Juma* prayer is limited to one hour or so. This prayer is obligatory on all Mussalmans. *Juma* prayer cannot be dispensed with. If facility for this prayer is done away with, then creeps in the question of *Dar-al-Harb* or *Dar-al-Islam*. If this opportunity of saying this prayer is not given, then India becomes *Dar-al-Harb*, *i.e.*, enemy country. If India becomes enemy country, what will be the duty of the Muhammadans? Their duty will be to leave this country and to go away to a country where they will get facility for saying their prayers. But, it has been decided, and long decided, that India is not a *Dar-al-Harb*. What is the reason of this decision? Simply because facilities and opportunities are given to the followers of Islam to say their prayer, and to perform all religious ceremonies without the least objection on the part of the Government. But time has wrought a change in the minds of the officers of Government, and especially the judicial officers. To the judicial officers, specially, the injunction to give facility to say *Juma* prayer gradually lost its force and become a mere "pious wish." Some of the judicial officers go so far as to say that the India Government resolution regarding *Juma* prayer is a pious wish and is meant for ministerial officers and not for litigants and other Mussalmans. In several cases, the answer comes from judicial officers when they are reminded of the pious wish: "We are here to dispense justice." But, they do dispense justice by the speedy disposal of the cases before them without thinking for a moment about the "pious wish," for they think that their promotion depends upon their speedy disposal of cases. The violation of the wish often happens in mufassal courts. The Hon'ble Member in charge of this department may say in reply that no complaint or specific case has as yet been made out, so it will not be out of place here to cite two cases which have been disposed of:—

(1) The first case is of Faleswari Nathni *versus* Tarikulla, money suit No. 1573 of 1918, in the Court of the second Munsif, Gaibandha, decided *ex parte* on 8th August, 1919. Review No. 228 of 1919. Rejected on 10th January, 1920.

(2) The second case is of Bachui Bibi *versus* Yajuddin Sheik, petty suit No. 617 of 1920, in the Court of the Second Munsif, Gaibandha, decided *ex parte* on the 30th July 1920. Review No. 221 of 1920. Rejected on 28th August, 1920.

Hence, Sir, there is no denying the fact that this pious wish is often violated, or sometimes disregarded, if I may be permitted to say so, with contempt. An hour's suspension of business on Friday from 12-30 to 1-30 P.M. will not materially affect or hamper the business of the day.

If an hour's suspension is granted for lunch, *i.e.*, for comforts of body, then does not fairness and justice demand that suspension for an hour on Friday for prayer be granted to the Mussalmans?

Somebody may argue, what will the judicial officers do during the time of suspension? To him my answer is that they may write out judgments or inspect their offices in charge of Hindu officers and other similar business.

The *Juma* prayer stands in greater sanctity than that of *Id* prayers. What reason can there be when holidays are sanctioned for *Id* festivals, that suspension of business should not be made on Friday for an hour only for a greatly important prayer by 2½ crores of Mussalmans of Bengal? So my appeal to my Hindu and Christian brethren in the Council is that they should consider the resolution from a religious point of view and give their weighty decision in favour of their Muslim brethren who live, move and work with them.

With these words I support this resolution.

Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED: Before taking up the subject I think I ought to let the Council know what Mr. Hornell has himself done with respect to the *Juma* prayers. He has sent a circular to all institutions to allow half-holiday on Friday if the governing bodies have no objection to that or to set apart one hour on that day for the *Juma* prayer; and I understand that effect has been given to it; in some cases half-holiday has been allowed, and in some cases where a full sitting is held, one hour's recess is given, and for this concession there has been no loss and no students have suffered in consequence. Mr. Hornell has thereby put us under a deep debt of obligation; and I hope what Mr. Hornell has done will be done by the officers who are in charge of the other departments of Government. It may perhaps be argued that a circular has been issued drawing attention of the officers that facilities should be given to Muhammadans to offer their prayers on Fridays; but this has not been sufficient. I beg to submit that one ought to understand that a petty peshkar who has to work under a District Judge or some other judicial officer does not dare to absent himself from the court. I, therefore, submit that unless there is a full hour's recess the effect will be nil. We pray, therefore, that one hour's recess should be given. Perhaps you do not know what is the feeling about this. I may tell you a story about it. There was a high official who used to go every day at 1 o'clock to his bungalow, which was very near to the court, in order to take his lunch. He had a motor car and his driver was a very pious Muhammadan and, therefore, particular in saying his prayer at the *Juma* time. But the time when the officer used to go to his bungalow used to clash with the time for his *Juma* prayer; but the driver being a very pious Mussalman never cared what the high official would tell him; because, after all, he was not a petty clerk that he could not get any other employment. One day it so happened that the high official

was very keen on going back to his bungalow as the time for lunch was up, but the man was going on with his prayer in the mosque near by. Consequently, there was a little delay and the official got very angry. As I was present there, the official asked me to *somjao* the man that it was better to pay more attention to his duty than to his prayer. I must admit that in my weakness I ventured to put a word or two to the man, but do you know what he said in his reply? He said: "Here is your motor car, Sir, and I shall never do your work against the call of the Almighty Father. I shall no longer be your servant." It seemed to me that it would have been better on my part not to touch that question. From this you can easily understand what is the feeling of the Muhammadans in regard to *Juma* prayer. That is the feeling of all the Mussalmans who form half the population of this presidency, and they demand that not a full holiday but only an hour's recess be granted. They could have demanded a full holiday, but they know that there are other considerations and therefore they should be very reasonable. In view of the fact that the Muhammadans entertain strong feelings in this matter, I hope that this Council will accede to this modest prayer and put them under a deep debt of obligation. I beg to submit that during the hour of recess when it is proposed to suspend the business in many of the mufassal courts and district courts, as many of us know, the presiding officers generally idle away their time in talking to their friends or in taking their lunch. If, therefore, for an hour they rise and keep themselves absent from their courts, no harm will be done, as they ordinarily have half an hour's recess for lunch. Therefore, it seems to me that it is not asking for too much, and that by granting this request you will put the people under a deep debt of obligation.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: I think, Sir, enough has been said on this question and I do not like to add anything more.

I wish to support the motion.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I support the motion. The fear of God is a great qualification in man. If my Muhammadan friends want only an hour a day in a week to say their prayers, nobody should grudge it. I think there would not be any inconvenience for allowing them to say their prayers. If there is any urgent work, the particular court can sit a little earlier, if necessary. In some cases during tiffin time much office work is done. So practically there will not be any difficulty and there should not be any objection to this being granted. We, in this Council, by a majority of votes, decided that 15 minutes' time should be granted for evening prayer. If this has been done, it is sufficient recognition of the importance of the Muhammadan prayer time, and our Muhammadan friends' prayer for an hour should also be granted. We all know that the *Juma* prayer is looked upon by our Muhammadan friends with sanctity and reverence. And on Friday an

hour's time devoted to prayer is not too much. I hope and trust that the authorities will raise no objection and will grant it.

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): This resolution is almost a replica of one which was moved by Maulvi Abul Kasem in July, 1917, in the old Council and, after the reply given by Lord Sinha, was withdrawn. That resolution of 1917 was in its turn the successor of a very similar resolution of which notice was given in 1916, having special reference to the adjournment of the courts for this purpose of Friday prayers. At that time, after inquiry had been made of the High Court, and attention had been drawn by them to their orders of 1899 and 1904, which permitted an optional adjournment of the courts, that resolution too was withdrawn.

There is, therefore, not much that I can say that is new. It would obviously be improper for me to offer any comment on this question from the religious point of view, which is doubtless held, and rightly held, strongly by the great Muhammadan community. I can only deal with the question from the point of view of public business, and explain what the attitude of Government in the matter is. The position of Government is that it is anxious in this respect to give all reasonable concessions and facilities to its Muhammadan employees. Attention was drawn to this matter in 1912, largely at the instance of Mr. Ghaznavi, and orders were then issued to all concerned that for the purpose of Friday prayers facilities should be given to Government employees. It is true that to that order a condition was attached that Muhammadans so absenting themselves should work extra hours at other times. Personally, I doubt if that was a very necessary condition, and I very much doubt if it was ever enforced. There is a practical difficulty in bringing isolated members of an office to work at a time when the whole office is not sitting, and reviewing the matter now, I would be perfectly willing to ask Government to consider the withdrawal of that condition which, I think, is, in effect, an impractical condition. Another reason for doubting whether it was ever practically in force, is that all our information as regards the working of these orders is to the effect that they have been worked without discontent or dissatisfaction. That was the action taken in 1912, and it was then greeted by the Muhammadan community as a reasonable concession to their views. When the matter was brought up again by Maulvi Abul Kasem in 1917, a special inquiry was made as to the working of these orders, and the replies were practically unanimous that they were availed of by the Muhammadan employees of Government and worked smoothly and well. I am well aware that isolated exceptions were mentioned in 1917, but they were few in number and were susceptible of explanation. Since then, no special attention has been drawn to the matter in the same way, but in February of this year Government again said, in answer to a question, that they would

make inquiries whether their employees had any reasonable complaints in this matter. That inquiry will be made, and should there be any grievances we will do our best to remedy them. Also I am perfectly willing to forward the proceedings of the Council to-day to the High Court in order that, in the light of it, they too may re-examine the working of their orders of 1889 and 1904, and see if anything further is required. If action is taken on these lines, I put it to the Council that, so far as we are concerned in our relation to our officers, we have done all that is reasonably possible.

The other aspect of the question is that of public business, with which Government is naturally also concerned. It has been held, and I am afraid I must urge again, that while we are willing to do all we can in respect of our own officers, we cannot, compatibly with the efficient and satisfactory discharge of business, impose this restriction on the public at large. I submit that if a thought is given to the matter it will be found that it is not a reasonable proposition. It is a mere platitude to say that in this vast country of India there are many communities, many creeds, and many different religious observances, and we have to endeavour to ensure the efficient conduct of the affairs of the country with reasonable concessions to the susceptibilities of each. But the public business has to be done. Again, in all friendliness, I put it to the Muhammadan members of the Council that it is not wise to push a too rigid restriction in a matter of this kind. The Muhammadan community is entering more and more largely into a participation in public life—a process which we hope to see continuing—but it will not facilitate this if their participation is accompanied by conditions which, from the public point of view, render their assistance less valuable than that of members of other communities.

The subject is one of some delicacy, upon which one of another creed naturally finds some difficulty in speaking, but I put it to the Muhammadan members that we, as a Government, have endeavoured to meet their susceptibilities to the full in this matter so far as our own officers and employees are concerned, and if we are not able to make this limitation binding upon the public at large, it is because other members of the public have rights and interests to which we equally feel ourselves bound to pay attention.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: It is not much that I desire to say on the subject, but I anticipated some of the remarks which have just been made by the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, and it is more by way of an appeal to him than to lengthen the discussion that I beg to say a few words on this subject. As the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler has pointed out, the subject is not at all a new one in the Bengal Legislative Council. It was debated more than once and interpellations were made to which replies were given by Government, but long before this subject came up before any of the Legislative Councils, the question

had attracted public attention in the country and had been brought to the notice of the authorities on more than one occasion. I might cite a few instances. I remember that a very influential deputation waited on Sir John Woodburn, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and later on on Sir James Bourdillon, who was then acting as Lieutenant-Governor. On these occasions the question was discussed from all possible points of view and instructions were issued not merely to heads of offices but also to the presiding officers of the courts, through the High Court, to afford facilities to their Muhammadan employees and Muhammadan litigants, witnesses and others for saying their *Juma* prayers. These orders worked satisfactorily for some time, but somehow or other they ceased to be observed as time wore on, and latterly it was found that they were honoured more in the breach than in the observance. That was the reason why this question had to be brought up repeatedly in various shapes and Government had to be approached for definite instructions not merely by circular orders of a recommendatory, but of a mandatory, character.

The resolution brings up the question in two distinct shapes. One affects business in law courts and the other in Government offices. So far as business in Government offices is concerned, it is quite possible for Government to pass orders that business should be suspended for one hour and that the work which might suffer might be made up by extra hours at the end of a day. The Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler has already said that he is ready to issue a circular making it unnecessary for heads of offices to insist on Muhammadans working extra hours in order to make up for lost time. That might meet the requirements of the situation so far as Government offices are concerned. But it is with regard to law courts that difficulties would arise, and I also recognise that there are complications by reason of the fact that the business of the law courts is regulated by circular orders issued by the High Court. And if the matter is left to the High Court, I have absolutely no hope that any satisfactory solution would be arrived at. We do not know whether the High Court would think it necessary to take up the matter at all, or if so, in what shape they will think it necessary to issue orders in order to provide facilities for Muhammadans to say their prayers. I want, therefore, to put forward the following points by way of suggestion.

Is it not possible to issue orders to the presiding officers of the courts by some sort of arrangements to close for one hour on Friday and make it up by sitting for an hour more at the end of the day? We all know that the High Court circular insists that the courts are to sit from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M., but it is well known that the presiding officers sometimes hold their courts up to 6 or 7 P.M., and I have known instances in which they sit up to 10 o'clock at night If the officers can do that, they might sit for an hour more on Fridays without distinct orders of the High Court. The Executive Government, who appoints these

officers and is in touch with them, can easily issue orders to these officers to the effect that they should sit for an hour more on Fridays. But if the matter is left to the High Court, I am afraid nothing would be done by them which could satisfy the Muhammadan public. The matter has been considered in various shapes on various occasions, and I confess that no satisfactory solution has been arrived at.

As regards the question as to what the presiding officer should do to occupy the vacant hour, I think he might easily find some employment to occupy himself during that time. It is only a question of an hour and it would afford facilities for Muhammadans to say their prayers. It will not do to say that Muhammadan litigants or witnesses may absent themselves in that hour. I might point out that in Eastern Bengal there is not a single case in the law courts where Muhammadans are not interested, if not as litigants, at least as witnesses or even as tatbidkars. And so if it is a question of Muhammadans absenting themselves from courts at a particular hour, it would mean that the whole business of the court would be stopped. It is no use hiding facts—the whole business of the court would have to be held up for an hour.

Sir, this would be a concession to Muhammadan feeling, which is very strong in this matter. I therefore beg to support the resolution

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: I do not propose to look at this matter from the political point of view which my hon'ble friend has mentioned. I consider that the necessity for finding time for saying *Juma* prayers cannot be questioned. So great is the feeling of the Muhammadan world in this matter that we find our poorest shopkeepers closing their shops on Friday noon at considerable sacrifice only to be able to attend to their prayers. I think, Sir, it has been very aptly said by one of the greatest of men that man does not live by bread alone. Therefore, I do not think that there should be any person so bold as to venture to stand in the way of our Muhammadan brethren to get time to say their prayers, and in that view of the matter I support the motion in its entirety.

There is only one thing that I would ask my Muhammadan friends. I have just listened to Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq and I do not know whether I could make a suggestion. In making the suggestion I would beg my Muhammadan brethren to remember that I do it in a spirit in which it may be possible for other people to accept it. It has been said that much difficulty would be caused because there are people who would ask: Why lose public time in this way? I therefore think—though my friend Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq said that it would not do—that if the resolution is put in this way—that courts should be closed for an hour on Friday in order to enable such Muhammadans as are in any way concerned with the cases to say their *Juma* prayers—the matter may be acceptable to us generally and a considerable amount of difficulty would be removed. I do not know whether my friend would accept

my suggestion. But if he accepts it, it may be considered by Government, though I do not know whether the Government would accept it.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN: I would not discuss the question at very great length, as it has been discussed almost on all points. I would only answer two foolish arguments which have been put forth by some of my colleagues. The arguments are these. We do not get any time for other prayer and did not get any time for *Juma* prayers so long, so we are not entitled to claim it. I would not answer it from a religious point of view, as that has been fully discussed, but I would answer it in a secular way. Because we have not been given full responsible government, should we not therefore accept the present partial reform? And because we have been deprived of self-government for more than 150 years, should we not ask for it now? Therefore it is not reasonable to say, because so long we have not been given time for any other prayer, so we should not ask time for *Juma* prayers at present.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I am not a Moslem, but I feel constrained to support this resolution. As a Christian I believe, and believe from the very depth of my heart, in the efficacy of prayer. It recalls to my mind the great line of the great Christian poet Tennyson: "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." I support this resolution not because it is politically expedient, but because it meets the spiritual needs of a man. I think it is the duty of Government to respect the religious susceptibilities of such a great community as the Muhammadan community. The Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler has discussed the question from the public business point of view. Supposing my Muhammadan friends turn round and say "Why lose the whole of Sunday? Why should not all the offices remain open on Sunday and public business be transacted? Why should we lose one whole complete day?" I should like to know what the reply of Government will be if that position be taken up. Religious susceptibilities, I consider, are of far greater importance than the dislocation of public business, if there be any, for an hour. Looking at it from every point of view, I think this little, modest concession should be made to the Muhammadan community.

Maulvi SHAH ABDUR RAUF: I am not going to dilate on the question of the importance of *Juma* prayer as my Muhammadan friends are well aware of it, and my Christian and Hindu brethren are also well aware of the importance of the prayer of their own religion. I should like to mention one thing. This prayer—the *Juma* prayer—can be separated from other prayers, inasmuch as it requires to be conducted with a number of persons praying together. It can be said that why one hour's time is not asked for in case of prayers on other days; but it can be differentiated in this way, that prayers on other days are conducted individually and there is practically no time-limit, but the

Friday prayers must be conducted all together. I have just looked into the circular which has been referred to by the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler. It has been said that no complaints are made by the employees of Government so far as the facilities for *Juma* prayer are concerned. I myself know, though it may not be officially known to Government as complaints have been made to me and to other persons living in the mufassal districts that due facilities are not given by the presiding officers of the courts. The circular refers only to employees under Government; it does not make any concession to the public at all. But here the aim of the resolution is to give facilities not only to the Muhammadan employees but also to the litigant public, 99 per cent. of whom in Eastern Bengal, I believe, are Muhammadans. My friend Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq has said that they are connected with the law courts either as pleaders or accused or witnesses, and so, if 99 per cent. of the court-going people, at least in Eastern Bengal, are Muhammadans, and if due facilities are not given to these persons to offer their *Juma* prayer for only one hour a week, I think a great injustice will be done to Muhammadans, and the hands of Government will be laid on their religious susceptibilities. I support this resolution on the ground that much inconvenience is caused to the litigant public. There is the circular before me, but in connection with this I may say that the presiding officers in the mufassal courts are hardly aware of the existence of a circular like this. On one occasion a client of mine was away attending the *Juma* prayer and his case was struck off. I myself was absent from the court and was in a mosque offering my *Juma* prayer. I then referred the court to the existence of the circular, but it was ignored. And afterwards a search was made in the office and the circular was found, and the learned Munsif agreed with me and allowed my case. My friend Maulvi Hamid-ud-din Khan, who was the second speaker on this resolution, referred to two cases which were rejected simply because the parties absented themselves at the time of the *Juma* prayer on Friday. There are innumerable cases unreported. These cases are hardly reported. I would invite the attention of the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler to the fact that these cases hardly reach the ears of Government, and the litigant public suffer a great deal at the hands of the presiding officers. I think that some order from Government is absolutely necessary to save this trouble. I do not think it would be out of place if I mention that we are now in the midst of perilous waters so far as the non-co-operation movement is concerned. We are aware of the movement for the boycott of law courts, and if we deny these facilities—this small concession—to the Muhammadan litigant public, I think it may go a great way towards the boycotting of law courts.

The only ground on which a resolution like this is opposed is that it will cause great inconvenience to Government work. But I submit that if you take facts into consideration no sort of inconvenience will be caused by this, because I have found from my personal experience

that in mufassal courts the Munsifs come out of their chambers most irregularly to try cases, sometimes at 12, sometimes at 12-30, sometimes at 1 and sometimes at 1-30. They are confined to the chamber because they have to sign a very big pile of papers. After lunch they do not generally come to the court before 3 or 4, and so, practically speaking, the business of the court is suspended for some time. I therefore submit that the business may be conducted by the presiding officers in their chambers and they may utilise one hour in the latter part of the day, and sometimes it so happens that adjournments are given according to the sweet will of the Munsifs; sometimes they get headache and they take an hour's time as leisure. So practically speaking, Government business will not be suspended or affected in any way if one hour's time is given on Friday for *Juma* prayer. In this connection I must say that my Hindu friends have most sympathetically supported this resolution, but what I feel is that my Christian friends should consider this case of the Muhammadans, inasmuch as they get one whole day in a week as the Sabbath day. And I refer to it because that shows clearly what the susceptibilities of a man might be. I do not support this resolution on any political ground, as my friend Dr. Suhrawardy has done. Political or not political, the question is that we must have it.

My friend Babu Surendra Nath Mullick has said that a certain modification might be made in the resolution, so that business may be suspended so far as Muhammadans are concerned, but I say that there will be some difficulty about it. A Muhammadan might be a presiding officer and a Muhammadan might be a bench clerk, and in that case practically the resolution will have to be taken into consideration. So I submit no amendment will do and we want the resolution to be passed *in toto*.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: I move that the question be now put.

The PRESIDENT: I think I should give the Hon'ble the Member in charge an opportunity to reply.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: With reference to the remarks that have been made by Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq, I have already mentioned that we are perfectly prepared to bring to-day's discussion to the notice of the High Court, and I have not the slightest doubt that the High Court will give due weight to the definite suggestions that have been made and to the arguments that have been brought forward. Beyond that we, as the Executive Government, cannot go, since the matter lies within the purview of the High Court, and we cannot dictate to them as to what they should or should not do.

Apart from that, we have to-day heard decided opinions from various quarters of the Council, and obviously the feeling in favour of the motion is strong. Clearly on a subject of this kind, involving religious considerations, it would be improper to take anything in the nature of a controversial vote, and, therefore, when the resolution is put, I, for

my part, and I have no doubt other officials as well for their part, do not propose to record an opinion. I am content to have explained the attitude of Government towards this matter in the past and now.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Kala-azar.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: "This Council recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken to investigate the cause of prevalence of kala-azar in every district of Bengal in which the disease is either known or suspected to exist."

The subject of this resolution is second to none in importance from the public health point of view. Kala-azar is to be recognised as the most dreaded and dreadful feature of a malady which is making headway in paralysing and killing the people.

A death-wave is sweeping Bengal. Bengal suffers from malaria in all its forms, cholera, small-pox, beriberi; and we have also to fight with this kala-azar. It is a matter of grave concern that the malady is also spreading in Calcutta, more specially in Wards Nos. 1, 9 nd 22, *i.e.*, Shampukur, Muchipara and Bhowanipore. It is officially contended that the number of imported cases is larger than locally infected ones. But this contention is of very poor consolation to us.

In kala-azar infected communities in civilised countries it is common to find whole families showing a marked degree of illiteracy, which is traceable to the disabling effects of the disease, and in many instances it has been found that for several generations none of these people has so much as entered a school. Kala-azar bequeaths a pernicious legacy to the infected communities, its work being done in a subtle, insidious manner, weakening the race, generation after generation, always tending to produce a condition of physical, intellectual and moral degeneracy, and economic loss to the infected country and communities.

Kala-azar was well known to the ancients. It was referred to by early Greek and Roman writers, and a description of it is to be found in one of the oldest Hindu *Tantras*. It was known even in those early days as "daukalin" fever, with gradual painful enlargement of the spleen, marked emaciation of limbs, and muddy appearance of the skin, and that is why it is called "kala-azar," "kala-dukh" or "black fever."

Closely allied to malaria and due to the same causes—neglected drainage, stagnant water and decomposed vegetable matter—is kala-azar, or Dum Dum fever, occurring both endemically and in epidemic form.

Kala-azar is not connected with the malaria mosquitoes, though common bed-bugs have been suspected to be the inveterate carriers of infection.

The disease was unknown in Bengal. Bengalis knew it to be confined to the wilderness of Assam, where it first attracted attention, and the Government there, on account of high mortality, sent medical experts, one after another, to find out the cause. Assam is no doubt responsible for spreading kala-azar into Eastern Bengal, and the disease spreads along the lines of communication as also in villages on the arrival of an infected stranger. The Assam Government has since taken up the duty of fighting kala-azar, has surveyed the districts to locate the infected areas, and opened treatment centres according to local necessities.

It is officially stated that not only Indians but Europeans also in East Bengal (Mymensingh, Dacca, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Tippera and Noakhali) are victims of kala-azar. Further, it is said that North Bengal (Jalpaiguri and Dinajpur) and West Bengal (Dum Dum, Burdwan and Hooghly) are not free from kala-azar infection. Mymensingh is suffering the worst. It has been found that 80 per cent of the villages of the Tangail subdivision are infected by kala-azar. People suffering from kala-azar, or "daukalin" fever as it is known in certain quarters, are succumbing in 95 per cent. of the cases either from nervous debility or from some complications, such as dysentery, diarrhœa, lung troubles, etc. As I have already said, the Rajshahi, Presidency and Burdwan Divisions, are not free from kala-azar infection. Sir Leonard Rogers, Dr. U. N. Brahmachari, Dr. Gopal Chandra Chatterji and other medical men have their own opinions, as to the cause of kala-azar infection.

While speaking on this subject, I must not forget to mention the mode of kala-azar treatment adopted by Dr. Muir, a missionary gentleman, who lived and worked at Kalna, district Burdwan, and who consecrated his life in the service of humanity. Dr. Muir had under his treatment hundreds of kala-azar patients, and I am proud to testify to his marvellous success in the treatment of these patients.

I have it on the authority of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, a member of this Council, that endemic fever, better known as kala-azar, is devastating the Tangail and Manikganj subdivisions. The Hon'ble Member in charge of Local Self-Government told us the other day that the District Board, Mymensingh, propose to start 18 centres for kala-azar treatment. Nothing done yet. Only it is proposed to start treatment centres. Are questions of life and death of the people to be dealt with in this way? I wonder. I have yet to learn, and I am anxious to learn, what the administration has done and is doing for arresting the devastation of the infected localities. I beg leave to ask this Council, and ask in all seriousness—Can the Government disown its direct responsibility to the suffering and dying people of the Tangail and Manikganj subdivisions? The implied official ineptitude and apathy would never have been passed over in any other country.

desire that effective steps be taken, irrespective of localities, not only to arrest the spread of kala-azar but also to eradicate the malady from the country. We have had several maladies and we are long suffering from them. We have endured many ills and evils. We cannot afford to add further to our miseries and misfortune and bring about a still larger death-roll. Once more I repeat with all seriousness that practical steps should be taken to investigate the cause of the prevalence of kala-azar and to eradicate it from Bengal.

Mr. H. BARTON: I rise to support the motion which has been moved. The question which the resolution aims at is a simple one, which is merely to investigate the cause of prevalence of kala-azar. I had occasion to raise the question some time ago and had a reply from the Hon'ble Member setting out percentages. I have made a reference to some of the best medical authorities in Calcutta, who are surprised to find that the figures submitted by the Hon'ble Member are so low that they are not prepared to accept them. One very eminent authority writes to say that he is fully convinced that the majority of cases of fever are treated as chronic malaria, indicating that those who treat fever cases do not go sufficiently deep into the treatment to satisfy themselves whether it is malarial fever or whether it is kala-azar. The question does not appear to be faced with the seriousness that it deserves. But it seems to me that the time is not far off when this disease will fall upon the people as a scourge, and then it will be too late to check its spread. The treatment of fever cases ought to be brought under closer supervision and under the best known medical authorities, and in all cases of fever the usual blood test ought to be insisted upon, as it is only then that any trace of kala-azar or malarial fever is possible. The cause of the spread of kala-azar is just now occupying the attention, I understand, of the best medical authorities in Calcutta. In my own case my child suffered from kala-azar, and up to the present moment the doctors who attended are racking their brains to find out how this contraction could have taken place. He was in Darjeeling for the whole season. He came down to Calcutta and two months after he was stricken by this fell disease, though living in one of the most healthy places in Calcutta for years. Doctors up to the present moment are unable to say how he could have contracted the disease. At the same time it is gratifying to know that the disease has to a very large extent been brought under, and I have it on the authority of some of the medical profession that under the treatment of intravenous injection 80 per cent. cures are practically guaranteed. But at the same time there is no doubting the fact that a large number of kala-azar cases exist in Calcutta and round about it, and that no one appears to have thought it his duty to sufficiently investigate the matter to find out what has been the real cause of its spread amongst the people. As I have stated, the resolution involves a very simple question and I feel absolutely certain that it will have

the support of this Council and that Government will take steps to investigate the cause of the prevalence of kala-azar.

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: I beg to support the resolution moved by Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur, if at all any support is necessary. Mr. Barton has very rightly said that many a life has been lost for the cases not being diagnosed properly. To my knowledge I have found some cases which were treated as simple malarial fever but they afterwards came to be proved as kala-azar. I know what Dr. Muir was doing at Kalna. He was doing immense good to the people, more to the Hindus and Muhammadans than to the Christians, and my District Board—the District Board of Burdwan—gave him Rs. 12,000 to help him in connection with his hospital and it will get every help that is necessary, Now the time has come when we should tackle the matter properly. First of all, to treat the cases properly we should know for certain that it is kala-azar, and consequently we cannot but take steps to investigate the cause of the prevalence of kala-azar if we are to get rid of it from the province. I whole-heartedly support the resolution that has been moved by the Rai Bahadur.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: I rise to support the resolution of Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur. Some of the councillors may not fully know that kala-azar, which played havoc in Assam in past years, is nowadays found in Mymensingh, Faridpur, Rangpur, parts of Nadia, Hooghly, Burdwan, etc. In fact it is almost as common as malaria, but it is a much more deadly disease, and in past years the mortality reached as much as 90 per cent. amongst those attacked. Thanks to the researches of Drs. Leishman, Donovan Sir Leonard Rogers, Brahmachari, etc., the disease now seems to be amenable to treatment, but our primary duty must be to find out the etiology of the disease, which, I am sorry to say, has not yet been fully worked out, and it is the investigation of this disease that this resolution aims at, and I therefore most heartily support it. The School of Tropical Medicine is going to be an accomplished fact before long, and we entertain very great hopes of finding out suitable treatment for this affection. But how this disease spreads; whether this disease has got any connection with malaria, as at one time it was supposed to have, needs solution, and early steps should be taken to investigate the disease in all its aspects. Mr. Barton has informed the Council that 80 per cent. of these cases are now cured by intravenous injection. But these statistics should always be accepted with a grain of salt, and I for one have seen very few cures by the present method of treatment in cases of kala-azar where the diagnosis was made by a thorough examination of blood and spleen puncture. With these words I beg to support the resolution.

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: I rise to support this resolution. I may add in this connection that the resolution does not go

far enough. It suggests that steps should be taken for investigating the cause of the prevalence of kala-azar, but I think that steps should also be taken for preventing the spread of kala-azar as much as possible. Much has been said on this subject already, and I do not think I should take up the time of the Council in dealing with this further. I beg heartily to support this resolution.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I may at once that I accept this resolution which has been moved by my friend Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur, and I am sure that the House will place Government in possession of funds that may be required for discovering the cause of the prevalence of kala-azar and also for the practical purpose of checking the spread of the disease. The line of Government action is of a twofold character. We should not only have to find out the cause of the disease, but, having ascertained that fact, we ought to adopt practical measures to fight kala-azar and to check its spread. So far as the investigation into the cause of the disease is concerned, it would be obvious that we have an institution ready to hand which would take it up with knowledge, and, I am sure, with efficiency. To that school my hon'ble friend Dr. Maitra has referred, namely, the School of Tropical Medicine. I am perfectly certain that the School of Tropical Medicine, equipped as it will be shortly for practical work, will be in a position to address itself to this very important task. Some reference has been made to the rate of mortality from kala-azar which was given by me in this House, and it has been suggested that the figures should be taken with a grain of salt. May I tell my hon'ble friend behind me (Mr. Barton) that I have given the Council the Corporation figures and I was quite justified in placing them before the Council as perfectly reliable and trustworthy, and unless and until these figures are challenged specifically and definitely by a different set of figures I am entitled to hold that they are correct. There may be an element of suspicion with regard to their accuracy, and perhaps it is justified because in many cases it would be difficult to differentiate between kala-azar and malarial fever, and a microscopic examination of the blood is necessary in order to ensure such differentiation. Therefore I am quite entitled to hold that the official figures which the Government has placed before this Council for acceptance are figures which, so far as they go, are reliable and trustworthy and must be accepted as such. Sir, I am very glad that my friend Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur has introduced this resolution before the House. He is an enthusiast in all matters relating to public health. He has given notice of another resolution regarding the cause of the prevalence of beriberi. My friend has thus afforded me an opportunity of placing before this Council and before the country all that Government has been doing in this connection and all that it means to do. I am afraid that my friend has been a little too hard upon the Government. I am afraid he seems to think, and there are

others who think with him, that we have been allowing ourselves to go to sleep over the prevalence of kala-azar in the Tangail subdivision. The other day I was very much amused to read a letter which appeared in one of the newspapers purporting to be written by a retired servant of Government. In that letter the writer told the public that the "mushroom Ministers" had gone to sleep while kala-azar was decimating the Tangail subdivision. The writer in this case happens to be a man of science, and if there is one thing more than another which science teaches her votaries it is this—investigation first, judgement afterwards. But this man of science forgetting this elementary principle passed a verdict of condemnation upon the Government of Bengal without caring to inquire into the facts of the case. I desire to tell him and all else whom it may concern that we have not been inactive in this matter. As soon as I learnt from the newspapers that kala-azar was prevailing in a somewhat virulent form in the Tangail subdivision I at once placed myself in communication with the Sanitary Commissioner and we concerted measures and sent down instructions to the District Board to follow a constructive policy which we thought might be helpful. I am glad to be able to say and I have the assurance of the deputation to which I shall presently refer, that that policy is being energetically pursued by the District Board of Mymensingh. A deputation waited upon me this morning from Tangail subdivision consisting of many eminent representatives of that subdivision. There were present my friend Mr. S. M. Bose a member of this Council and the Raja of Santosh. These two gentlemen and the Subdivisional Officer of Tangail spoke to me with authority and a sense of responsibility. They informed me that the District Board had allotted Rs. 1,000 for operations in connection with kala-azar; further, that the work was being carried on systematically and with energy. Not only that; we are going to have 18 centres in the subdivision of Tangail for fighting kala-azar. There are to be six medical licentiates to be posted to each dispensary attached to the place and, not only that, there are to be two more centres for the admission of patients within five miles of these dispensaries. There will thus be as my friend has pointed out 18 centres, which will cover 425 square miles and about 900 to 1,000 villages. That represents the scope of the operations which are being undertaken to fight kala-azar in the Tangail subdivision. If my friend, the mover of this resolution, after hearing my speech and after having listened to these facts, still holds the opinion which he expressed in this House, that there has been a good deal of apathy on the part of Government, I claim on the basis of the facts which I have just stated, on the basis of the work which is being prosecuted with vigour and of the activities which Government have displayed in this connection—I claim, and I am sure I will have the House with me in this matter, that we have done our duty consistently with our resources, and subject to the advice and guidance that we are able to command.

It is necessary that I should put in a word of justification not only for myself as a member of the new Government but also for the old Government, which was not inactive in this matter. So far back as 1919 a survey of kala-azar was started by the Government of Bengal and a kala-azar survey was carried on in most of the Eastern districts—Mymensingh, Dacca, Tippera, Bakarganj and Faridpur, and Dr. Sur, who is in charge of this work, is now in Assam, carrying on a personal investigation, because it is understood that Assam is the centre and the seat of the disease. Well, that represents the work of the old Government; much of it was underground, much of it was not advertised; the Government worked in secrecy and silence and they did not care to reply to criticisms directed against them. Now I desire to raise a note of warning. It must not for one moment be supposed that kala-azar is confined to the eastern districts; nothing of the sort. The late Dr. Nott discovered several years back that there was kala-azar in the Murshidabad district and especially in the area between the Bhagirathi and the Chota Bhairab. Cases of kala-azar have been reported in the Burdwan district, and as my friend has observed also in the Rajshahi district, in Pabna, Rangpur and even in Calcutta. The Calcutta cases may be imported. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. We must try to realise the danger in which we are at the present moment and take necessary measures. There is that menace of kala-azar before us and we have to safeguard the population of Bengal against this terrible danger, more devastating in its consequences than even malarial fever. I think an Hon'ble Member has stated here that the mortality was 80 per cent. That statement is challenged; the mortality is believed to be higher; certainly a great deal more than the mortality from malarial fever. That being so, I ask the Council to be on their guard against the insidious advance of this terrible disease. We shall do our best with the organisation, staff and the resources that are at our disposal, but it is for you to vote the money. You hold the purse-strings; give us the money and then charge us with apathy if we neglect to apply it to the important purpose to which we are asked to devote it. I desire to raise this warning note and I hope it will be taken in the spirit in which it is made. With these remarks I desire to accept the resolution.

Maulvi SHAH ABDUR RAUF: I must thank the Government that this resolution has been accepted by the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, and after what he has said I need not add anything further. I support the resolution.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I have already addressed the House on the points which I wished to say. I have also listened to the speech of the Hon'ble Minister and I notice that he told me that I am an enthusiast. I have been long connected with medical

institutions in the mufassal. I have noticed the defects in the system of working. I thought it my duty to bring to the notice of the Council that there has been apathy on the part of Government. The Hon'ble Minister says that he had had a consultation with a few gentlemen of the Mymensingh district, but as yet no report of it has been published.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I have to correct my friend. The report has been published in to-day's paper.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I missed the report in to-day's paper. When I sent notice of this resolution I was not aware that any effective steps were taken by Government, and that was the reason why I complained to the House that there was apathy on the part of Government. I am delighted to see that the Hon'ble Minister has taken steps to eradicate the disease, which is certainly insidious in its character. I submit to the Council that the question which I have raised is not an easy one. In fact we find it stated that a death-wave is sweeping Bengal, and from personal experience I can say that it is necessary that effective steps should be taken; but the Hon'ble Minister assures me that he has already taken steps in this connection. I am greatly delighted to hear of it, and I shall cease to worry him and shall congratulate him when I find that he has actually done something to remove this scourge. The Council is aware that the Bengalis are a dying race. I am trying to find out the reasons which have affected the public health of Bengal, and the Hon'ble Minister will have to take trouble to devise means to improve the health of the people of the province.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Steamship Companies.

Maulvi A. H. M. WAZIR ALI: "This Council recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken to compel all steamship companies carrying on passenger traffic in Bengal, especially the India General Navigation and Railway and Rivers Steam Navigation Companies and their Managing Agents, to provide suitable waiting rooms at all their stations, and also that the abovenamed Companies be asked to reduce their rates of fare to the rate charged by any of the State-owned Railways in Bengal."

This resolution hardly requires any speech. It is of such a simple nature and of such a general character that it is within the easy ken of every one present here. I doubt if there is a single person who will oppose this resolution. In my resolution there are two prayers: firstly,

it appeals to the Government to exact some of our legitimate dues from a few capitalists; and, secondly, it appeals to the Government to save us from the exploitation of the said capitalists. To our European friends here it may sound as an anomaly that there can be a station without a waiting room. But to us, the poor Bengalis, it is a hard matter of fact of every-day experience. I have travelled on most of the services run by the India General Navigation and Railway and Rivers Steam Navigation Companies, but I do not remember to have seen a single waiting room in any of their stations. Sir, you can easily imagine the sad lot and the untold miseries which the passengers using the stations of the abovenamed companies suffer. The sufferings of these poor passengers can better be imagined than described.

Sir, so long I have only attempted to give you a glimpse of our sufferings in general. Now I wish to refer to a few specific cases. There is a station called Hularhat on the K.N.M. service. It is a very important junction of several steamer services and used by nearly 400 passengers a day. It is also the station for the subdivisional town of Pirojpur in the district of Bakarganj. But Messrs. Macneill & Co., who are so very fond of flouting and riding rough-shod over public feelings and opinions, did not think it worth their while to provide a waiting room there. Sir, the Barisal express with a full load of passengers reaches there about 3 in the morning. Can anybody tell me where these unfortunate passengers, especially the poor helpless Indian ladies, will go at that ungodly hour? There is no waiting room, no human habitation near by, where these passengers can go and take shelter. These passengers and the passengers who want to embark from Hularhat have no other alternative than to expose themselves to the inclemencies of the weather for hours and hours together. Sir, it is impossible to describe their most pitiable condition. They suffer from the rigours of a chilly and biting cold in the winter, from torrential downpours during the rains, and from a tropical sun in all seasons. Messrs. Macneill & Co., not only do not provide any waiting room, but to crown all their misdeeds they drive away those unfortunate passengers who come to take shelter in their receiving flats and jetties. This is neither a barber's tale nor a farmer's news. I say this from my own personal experience. Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq Sahib too had this unpleasant experience on the first of October, 1920, when he went to attend his mother's burial. Sir, I have faintly described the sufferings of the passengers in one station only, but that is the condition of the poor passengers at all their other stations as well. Hularhat may be taken as a type of the rest. You will be astonished to hear that the net profit of the company at the said station is nearly Rs. 1,00,000 per annum. It is not that they cannot make both ends meet with their little income, so they are not in a position to provide these little comforts to the passengers. They are simply piling money at the expense of our countrymen. The same tale is told everywhere.

The following is a table of a few of their important stations:—

	Rs	
Barisal	2,00,000	No waiting room
Jhalakati	2,00,000	,,
Nalchiti	1,00,000	,,
Chittagong	1,20,000	,,
Nalmuri	1,25,000	,,
Daulat Khan	50,000	,,
Bhola	50,000	,,
Boalmari	40,000	,,
Boga	60,000	,,

Sir, the cost of the said companies for maintaining their stations is very low in comparison with the railways. What a railway spends for one of their third-rate stations they do not spend that for their very best stations even. Jhalakati is one of their biggest stations with an earning of nearly Rs. 2,00,000 a year. Their various cost of maintaining the said station is not more than Rs. 12,000 a year. I think Rs. 12,000 is nothing pitted against Rs. 2,00,000. At every railway station, be it as unimportant as it may be, there is always a waiting-room, but if we only see with our eyes wide open we will find that the steamer companies have not got waiting rooms at all their important stations even. If anybody would take the trouble of visiting stations like Hatiya, Sandwip, Churlakshi, Kadirpur, and hundreds of others which are far removed from human habitations, then only would he realise the untold miseries and sufferings which the poor passengers suffer for want of waiting rooms. Messrs. Macneill & Co. are so ungenerous and unsympathetic that in a hurry to pile profits after profits they not only do not provide waitings rooms but also deliberately and wilfully refuse to keep in a habitable condition those waiting rooms and rest-houses which the public, pressed by dire necessity, build at their own expense. Take, for instance, the case of Kaukhali. The travelling public after undergoing hardships after hardships at last built a rest-house at their own expense. The company for their own benefit have removed the station to a distance of nearly a mile from the old site, but they did not think it worth their while to remove the said rest-house to their new station. This would not have cost them Rs. 25 even.

Sir, I think I have sufficiently proved that a waiting room is a dire necessity at a station, more especially at a steamer station, on account of the uncertainty of the arrival and departure of steamers. I have also proved that these companies have deliberately refused to provide rest-houses in utter disregard of public feelings.

Now coming to the second point, namely, reduction of the rates of 'are. Sir, I think I have made a very modest request in this respect. 'n fairness to the railways I should have suggested that the rate of the ıteamer companies should be lower than the rate of the railways, ›ecause the latter have got to make a very vast outlay in the beginning vhich the steamer companies have not. Besides, the costs of the railway ·ompanies are much higher than those of the steamer companies. Jnder the Barisal agency they have got 209 stations, but of these 110 .re "sircir" stations, that is, the cost of maintaining each of these stai-ions is only Rs. 7-12 a month and not full Rs. 8 even. This very clearly hows how cheap their costs of maintaining most of their stations are. ıook at the railway stations, how beautiful they are; look at the railway fficials, how well paid they are; look at their workshops, how vast and xpensive they are; in short, look all round them and you will find that hey excel the steamer companies in every department. The cost of ıying a mile of track, as I have been informed by the Traffic Manager, 'astern Bengal Railway, is a lakh of rupees. So, according to this alculation, the cost of laying a line from Barisal to Khûlna would have een one crore and four lakhs. But what is the cost of the steamer comanies in this direction? Nothing but a big Zero? The cost of the eamer companies in this direction is nil, as against one crore and four ıkhs of the railway companies. Still the railway companies charge a ›wer rate than the steamer companies. The railways charge a fare and half of their third class fares for the intermediate class, but the :eamer companies charge full two third class fares for their intermedi-:e class. The railways never carry goods in a passenger train. They ıve got to run a separate service for carrying goods. But steamer ›mpanies can carry, and really do carry, both passengers and goods ı one and the same vessel. The hold of a vessel is stuffed with goods, ıd so also the lower deck. Only the upper deck is reserved for the use the passengers. Moreover, when necessity demands, railways pro-de additional trains, but these steamer companies will never do that. he steamers sometimes, especially during the *Puja* exodus and other indu festivals such as the *Snan Jatras* and *Jogs*, carry more passen-›rs than they are licensed to carry. According to the license certifi-.te the companies ought to allow the passengers to use the lower decks well. But this they, in direct violation of their license regulations, ›ver do. The result is that during the *Pujas* and other Hindu festi-ls passengers are hardly provided with seating accommodation even. ıe steamers that are used by the India General Navigation and Rail-ıy and Rivers Steam Navigation Companies are a very cheap means transport. These steamers are so ill-furnished that, not to speak of eir intermediate class compartments, their second class cabins even e not furnished with cushioned seats. In spite of all these the steamer mpanies delight to charge a very high rate from the helpless passen-rs. They have been emboldened to do so on account of the Government

giving them a long rope to do as they please. A glance at the following figures will show how exorbitant the rates of the steamer companies are:—

	Miles.	Steamer company's fare.			Railway fare would have been.			In excess of the railway fare		
		Rs	A.	P.	Rs.	A	P.	Rs	A	P.
Goalundo to—										
Badartuni	100	2	4	0	1	9	0	0	11	0
Dorogram	57	1	8	0	0	14	3	0	9	9
Elashin	40	1	0	6	0	10	0	0	6	6
Ghorashal Ghat	82	2	3	9	1	4	6	0	15	3
Hemganj	67	1	13	3	1	0	9	0	12	6
Lalitganj	65	1	11	9	1	0	3	0	10	6
Natun Bharenga	19	0	6	9	0	4	9	0	2	0
Rajkhara	23	0	8	9	0	5	9	0	3	0
Sabhar	92	2	4	6	1	7	0	0	13	6
Singair	84	2	2	9	1	5	0	0	13	9
Tepakhola	8	0	5	0	0	2	0	0	3	0
Nalnuri to—										
Hathuria	2	0	2	0	0	0	6	0	1	6
Kaukhali to—										
Amajuri	2	0	1	6	0	0	6	0	1	0
Juluhar	2	0	4	3	0	0	6	0	3	9

Sir, I could have given you hundreds of other instances if Messrs Macneill & Co., had only condescended to sell to me a copy of the latest edition of their fare and distance tables and also a copy of their coaching tariff. I wrote to Messrs. Macneill & Co. expressing my desire to purchase some of their papers, old and new. They wrote to me in reply that they had no spare copies of their old papers. Then I sent my man to purchase copies of the latest edition of their fare tables and coaching tariffs, but they refused to sell them. During the Easter holidays while I was at Barisal I sent my cousin to buy copies of the

ıid books from their Barisal agency, but they also refused to sell them. ir, these time tables and coaching tariffs are sold by all companies xcept Messrs. Macneill & Co. This clearly shows that their conduct is ɔt fair and above board.

Sir, not only do they charge a very high rate, but they are also ways in the habit of increasing their fares without any justification hatsoever. And the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr told the House the day before esterday, in reply to a question put by me regarding the said companies, ıat these enhanced rates do not cause any inconvenience or hardship anybody. How can the Hon'ble Mr Kerr know from his Secretariat ıair whether these enhanced fares cause hardship or not? If he really ants to know, let him take the trouble of going round these stations ıd inquire whether these systamatically periodic increments cause ırdship or not. There is, moreover, another reason which may account r the blissful ignorance of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Marine epartment. The reason is that first and second class fares have been ft unassailed and only the third class fares have been increased. It only the wearer who knows best where the shoe pinches. Is the on'ble Mr. Kerr aware that meetings were held at Barisal early in ecember last vehemently protesting against this nefarious practice of e said companies? The public are so very excited that they are thinkg of inviting Messrs. Bando & Co. to open steamer services throughıt the whole of Bengal. This unfortunate utterance of the Hon'ble r. Kerr will give a fresh impetus to the steamer companies to increase eir fares furthermore.

A moment's consideration will show how fond Messrs. Macneill & Co. ıd their partners are of increasing their fares:—

	1913.			1914.			1918.			1921.		
om Barisal to—	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Khulna	1	8	0	1	9	3	1	11	9	1	14	9
Chittagong	1	13	0	1	14	0	2	2	0	2	12	0
Madaripur	0	12	0	0	14	0	2	1	0	2	4	6
Kaukhali	0	10	9	0	10	9	0	12	0	0	13	3
Imuri to—												
Barisal	0	10	0	0	12	0	0	14	0	1	0	6

Sir, not only their fares increase year after year, but the distance so increases from one station to another, according to their compution. In the joint companies' fare tables for 1914 the distance from

Barisal to Chittagong is shown as 139 miles, but in coaching tariff circular No. 187, dated Barisal, the 8th February, 1915, the distance is shown as 141 miles. The distance from Hularhat to Kaukhali, as shown on page 41, joint companies' fare tables, 1921, is 2 miles and the distance is actually 2 miles. But in a circular issued on 1st March, 1918, the distance is shown as 4 miles. So I propose that the task of calculating the distance from one station to another be undertaken by Government and the cost be levied from the said companies.

Sir, according to an antediluvian reckoning Barisal was 104 miles from Khulna, and the companies, deliberately and dishonestly winking at the fact that the distance has been reduced by 12 miles on account of the dredging of the Gabkhan canal, are still putting the same figure on their tickets and robbing the passengers thereby in an indirect way.

The distance from Kaukhali to Barisal is at present, on account of the short route through the Gabkhan canal, not 35 miles but only 23 miles, and for these 23 miles the steamer companies are charging annas 13-3, *i.e.*, more than double the fare that the railways would have charged. In fact, the said companies are plundering the people in a scientific way.

Sir, before I sit down I wish to draw the attention of the House to another fact. Formerly the charge for one maund of luggage from Calcutta to Barisal was Rs. 2 and for 10 seers, annas 8. Now the charge for one maund has been, at the instance of Messrs Macneill & Co., increased to Rs. 2-13. But the funniest part of the thing is this, that while they charge Rs. 2-13 for one maund, they charge Re. 1-2 for 10 seers. I think, Sir, a new Sir Isaac Newton has been born in the dusty shelves of Messrs. Macneill & Co., at No. 2, Clive Ghat Street, who has propounded this new theory of ratio and proportion for them.

Sir, when I move this resolution I have got the backing of the whole country behind me. The resolution was very highly commended and ably supported by almost all the leading Indian newspapers, such as the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the *Bengalee*, the *Basumati* and the *Nabajug*.

Sir, with your kind permission I would like to read a passage from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* dated the 3rd April, 1921:—

Maulvi Wazir Ali, an elected member of the district of Bakarganj, has given notice of an useful resolution which is likely to come up for discussion in the meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council to-morrow (Monday) The inconveniences suffered by the travelling public for want of suitable resting places at the steamer stations of the river districts of Bengal are so well known that we need hardly recapitulate them over and again. The times of arrivals and departures of steamers are not and, in fact, cannot be certain, like railway trains Passengers are therefore sometimes compelled to wait for hours, and consequently the necessity of some sort of shelter cannot be too strongly emphasised The steamer companies earn fat revenue from the river districts of Bengal, and there is no reason why they should not be compelled to make suitable arrangements for the convenience of the travelling public. Maulvi Wazir Ali's resolution requesting the Government to ask the steamer companies to build sheds in all stations

s a modest and reasonable one, and we see no reason why this resolution should ıot be accepted unanimously. Further, the Maulvi's demand for reducing the 'ares has our whole-hearted support, and in the interest of the poor people of this ·ountry the members of the Council should have no hesitation to accept this very reasonable demand.

Sir, with these few words, I commend my resolution for the accept-ınce of the House.

Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: I do not like to make . long speech on this subject. It would have been better, if my friend ınd colleague in Council, Mr. J. E. Roy, representing the steamer ·ompanies, had been here. I regret his absence. I rise simply to bear estimony to some of the allegations made in the speech of the mover.

With regard to the point of rest-houses and waiting rooms at the teamer stations, I think the inconvenience to the public is tremendous.)f course, I fully appreciate the difficulties of the companies in recting rest-houses and waiting rooms, because the river-bed is onstantly changing and there is constant cutting away of the river anks. There is the same difficulty in having permanent rest-houses ut considering the inconvenience to the travelling public, there is no eason why temporary rest-houses, to give shelter to the ladies and ıildren during the rains and in the hottest part of the summer, should ot be erected. This question was also brought to the notice of the istrict Board of Bakarganj some years ago—I was then a member of ıe District Board—the steamer companies promised to have st-houses at some of the more important stations. Since then, othing has been done. I think this is due to the *golmal* in every part the world, not only in this country, owing to the war, and it is very ecessary that the attention of the steamer companies should now be 'awn to these facts. It is a very small matter—the erection of mporary or permanent rest-houses where practicable, at all important ations. This can be easily done, and I think if the steamer mpanies took up the question in right earnest, the District Board of ıkarganj and the district boards of other places concerned, will be ıly too glad to come to the help of the steamer companies and have the st-houses erected.

With regard to the rise in the rates of fares, I can say that the rise .s been steady, and it does affect, very materially, the poor travelling ıblic. Now these steamer companies have, in a manner, the mono-ıly of navigation throughout the rivers of Eastern Bengal, and they e taking advantage of that position. There is no other rival company; at gives rise to a very important question, the question of the State ınagement of railways and of steamer companies. Of course, this is very large question, and a question like this should have been brought fore the Legislative Assembly of India, and I think we shall have a finite pronouncement after the report of the Railway Commission is

submitted to the Government of India. Of course the recommendations of the Railway Commission, with regard to the nationalisation of these railways, will affect steamer companies as well, but so far as this Council is concerned, I do not quite see what we can do in the matter.

It is a matter within the competence of these private companies, and our recommendations will be of no use—of no practical use—unless that recommendation is accepted; Government interference in a matter like this may be resented by private companies. Nevertheless, I think this is a matter which should be discussed and fairly debated upon by the District Board of Bakarganj, which is the proper place where this question should be discussed. At any rate, I thank the mover of the resolution for drawing the attention of the Government and the public to this all-important matter. It affects public convenience greatly, and I think the mover's speech would have been very much appreciated by the Railway Commission, if it was placed before it; though it refers particularly to the steamer companies. They are almost on the same ground, that is to say, whether these companies should be allowed to run their business, on lines chosen by them, or whether the State should take up the mangement of the railway and the steamer companies. This is a very large question, it affects the public very much, and I think the time is not very far off when the question shall have to be considered, and we shall have to face an important aspect of it, viz., whether we should nationalise the railways and these steamer companies.

One word more, and I have done. With regard to the rates of fares, suppose we ask the companies—I do not know how the Government can ask—to reduce the fares, and if they refuse to do so, how can we compel them? All that we can do is to ask them. But what is the good of merely asking? Will not there be some loss of dignity on the part of the Government if they ask private companies to do something and they refuse? The Government have no authority and cannot force their will upon the companies. That is the situation. I do not oppose this resolution and I have already said so before. I thank the mover of the resolution for drawing attention to a very real grievance of the public.

Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY: The details of the resolution have been very well threshed out by the mover himself and I do not wish to go over the same ground again. I, however desire to point out that there is no doubt that the initial capital expenditure, and the recurring maintenance and working expenses of the railways are very much higher than those incurred by the steamer Companies. They have not to fill up and consolidate low-lying marshy lands, level up hilly tracts, construct bridges and tunnels to lay their roads. The steamer companies utilise nature's gift, the great waterways of Bengal, as their ready-made permanent way; these in most cases do not require any maintenance expenditure, nor have the steamer companies to entertain a special expert staff of block and signal engineers and carriage examiners to ensure safety and comfort. But in spite of all these advantages and

consequently large outturn of profits the disparity between the two means of carrying passengers is very remarkable indeed. I do not mean their rate of locomotion. I mean the difference one notices between the comforts and facilities offered to the travelling public, by the two undertakings. At the railway stations we find that trains nearly always arrive and depart at the hours stated in the time table, but such punctuality is not the case with the steamer companies. It may be due to the varying tides, sudden hurricanes, shifting sands and other natural causes. However, whatever the contributing causes may be, the fact remains that passengers have to wait longer at stations on the river system than on the railway system. And therefore it is very desirable that at steamer stations suitable waiting rooms should be provided by the companies that run the line, as is the practice at every railway station. Want of suitable waiting rooms, or even of temporary sheds to be utilised for that purpose, is very keenly felt, especially by the Indian community, who travel with their women folk, whose needs are too well known to require repetition. I believe a great deal of hardship and discomfort is experienced by all classes of passengers, as in many places even a temporary shed to take shelter from the sun and the rains are not provided. Then again, as a steamer journey takes longer than a railway journey, one would naturally expect that suitable arrangements should be made at a station and on board the steamer for providing fresh and wholesome food to the passengers. Here again we find the railways providing arrangements for Indian and European refreshments, under the supervision of a regular staff of European and Indian food inspectors. I do not think the Indian passengers on our inland steamers get anything excepting old *puri* and *mithai* and sometimes stale *tarkari*. A little re-arrangement for cooking accommodation on board a steamer for both Hindu and Muhammadan passengers will provide necessary means for supplying fresh Indian food to such passengers on the same lines as is done in the non-orthodox European style for the upper class passengers. Such arrangements will go a long way to materially add to the comfort of the poorer classes of the Indian travelling public—not to speak of their being conducive to their health and preventing diseases.

I do not know whether we have the power of "compelling" private companies to do what the resolution recommends. I have, however, no doubt that the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr, whose sympathies with us are well known, will find some ways and means for ensuring comfort and safety to the poorer class of Indian passengers. Government has the power of granting charters and licenses to steamers, and they may so upset the profitable business of carrying of goods, that the request from the Hon'ble Member in charge of Commerce, even in the absence of a direct power of compulsion, will make the Directors of the steamer companies seriously think over the expediency of taking early steps for providing waiting rooms and ensuring other facilities, to Indian passengers, by

steamer companies at the different stations of Bengal, where steamers ply for passengers.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I am sorry in this resolution I have to part company with my friend Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir Ali on principle. The steamer companies, two of which have been specially mentioned in this resolution are, after all, private concerns, and their dealings with the public are governed by the ordinary law of contract, supplemented by a few provisions of the Carriers' Act. In none of these, I believe, has Government got any direct power to intervene in any of those matters between the public and the steamer companies. I do not suggest for a moment that if any particular policy of importance is at stake, such as we have recently had between the Tramways Company and its employees, then it is the duty of the powers that be to interfere and make matters smooth. But in the present resolution, there is nothing to be met with which really requires such particular attention from the Government, because at certain places certain waiting rooms are more or less necessary, or because at certain other places the company charges fares under certain rules, which do not compare favourably with those obtaining in railway companies. There is a great deal of difference between railway companies and steamer companies. In my professional capacity, I have done the work of both companies for several years. Railway companies are governed by the Railway Act. Under the Railway Act we have got risk notes, and guarantees, and the law has invested the Governor General in Council with power to make certain rules. On the one hand the railway company has got a great deal of advantage by reason of risk notes and such other favourable provisions which do not apply to steamer companies. On the other hand, the rate of fares in the case of railway companies has to be determined by law, whereas, as regards private companies, the rate of fares has to be determined by various factors which are governed by the exigencies and necessities of trade.

Having been connected with these two companies for some years in my capacity as their retained pleader, I know a great deal of these companies. The bright picture which the mover has drawn of the companies earning so much that it amounts to exploitation of the public, is not true; I do not say that the companies are insolvent, far from that; but I know there is a great deal of difficulty under which these companies run the services, and we are very apt to forget the advantages which the company has brought to us. In former years, before we had the steamers at these places, we know how native sloops had to come from Chittagong *viâ* the Sunderbans and how, sometimes at a great risk of life and property, it took us 10 or 15 days to reach places like Barisal, Khulna, etc. The steamer companies have really shortened the distance and given great facilities. I do not mean to suggest at the same time, that the inconveniences which have been referred to by

the mover of this resolution should not be removed, but I believe that if proper representation is made to these companies, they will be the first to adopt suggestions for the improvement of their own business, and at least meet us half-ways. But there are stations, such as Goalundo, where the landing stage has to be shifted every two or three months where it is really impossible to suggest the building of any permanent structure. But in those places some shelter is afforded by the receiving flats, and at the other stations some amount of shelter is provided at the stations themselves.

In these circumstances, the main question that arises is, since the steamer companies are running the service as a private concern, whether there is such an important policy involved,—such as the companies taking advantage of their position as monopolists, as to call for interference on the part of the Govermnent? I do not see any reason why the absence of a few waiting rooms should necessitate Government interference. If Government is going to interfere in these matters I do not see how they can avoid interference with private companies always. I can well see the mischievous result if Government interfere with the liberty of trade.

Coming to the rates of fares, I have also taken certain figures; the rates never exceed 4 pies per mile between Goalundo and Chandpur These rates differ and in many stations are lower. For carrying mails better class of steamers have got to be kept; navigation is very difficult in the Padma and great expense has to be incurred to keep the mail steamers up to the high standard of efficiency. But when you go to more distant places, such as, Dibrugarh, the rate is less than 3 pies. From Calcutta to Chittagong the direct route costs 4 pies including the Assam-Bengal Railway fare. The Assam-Bengal Railway fare is 4 pies a mile; from Calcutta to Chandpur it is 4 pies per mile; from Goalundo to Chandpur also 4 pies and if you go to other places such as Fenchuganj and Badarpur, it is less than 3 pies. In the Ganges service it is not more than 2 pies a mile, because it is a safer service. So many things have got to be considered, not only the capability of the people to pay, but also the question of competition, difficulties of the route, expense of upkeep, etc. It is all very well to say that the steamer companies are earning Rs. 2 lakhs at a station and therefore they should spend Rs. 1½ lakhs on the convenience of passengers; this is a very superficial way of judging things, and I submit that the Council should not take it up and force the hands of Government to make any recommendation in a matter like this.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: We have heard the mover of the resolution on behalf of the public; we have heard Mr. Wazir Ali, and we have also heard the case of the steamer companies from Mr. A. C. Dutta; we also expect to hear the Government point of view from the Hon'ble Member. Now I really sympathise with the supporters of the

resolution for having put forward so many facts in its support. It is absolutely necessary, as suggested in the first part of the resolution, that there should be waiting rooms or places for rest provided for passengers. Just imagine the difficulties of people, respectable or otherwise, waiting for many hours with families and children, in the sun and rain in expectation of steamers coming! It is absolutely necessary that these companies should, as far as practicable, make suitable waiting rooms for these passengers.

As regards the second portion of the resolution the reduction of fares, my friend has said that there has been exploitation of the public. Well, we are not in possession of facts and figures to endorse that view. But there is one thing which strikes me in the resolution, and that is that it asks that immediate steps be taken to compel all steamship companies to do certain things.

I do not know how the Hon'ble Member will reply, or how far Government have got the power to compel these private companies to do this. If any member of this House brings in future a resolution that Government should interfere and compel private companies or zamindars, or private individuals, to do something, I think all non-official members will oppose the resolution. Now practically it comes to this: that Government will be asked to compel these steamship companies to do certain things. If Government had the power to do that, some day or other, I think, one member may wish to bring up a motion that in certain khas mahals Government realise rent at a certain rate, therefore all the zamindars in that locality should be compelled to realise their rent from their tenants at the same rate. In this Council there was a great uproar about the high charges of the Hon'ble High Court for making paper books. One day we may hear of a member sending in a motion that the High Court should be compelled to reduce the amount of charges for making paper books. No doubt my friend's object is very sympathetic and helpful to the public, but I think, at the same time, the wording of the resolution should be changed. These companies are private companies, some of them have a small capital. How can Government compel them by law to reduce their rates and incur heavy expenditure? The result will be that they will have to be wound up! It is desirable that my friend should change the wording of his motion so as to make it such as Government may help the public in this matter.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I am not suprised that the motion has been opposed by my friend Babu Annada Charan Dutta, who has confessed himself to be the retained pleader of these two companies. I must say, this Council is not the place for such special pleading. In a matter like this, I should have hesitated several times before supporting a resolution which attempted to take away the liberties of private companies, but I know that these two companies, which have been specially mentioned in this resolution, are in the nature of monopolist companies in the waterways of Bengal and Eastern Bengal. These two companies, the

Indian General Navigation and Railway Company and the Rivers Steam Navigation Company, have been enjoying a sort of monopoly; and they, with the advantages of large capital and large staff, have, I believe, sometimes endeavoured to stifle Indian companies who tried to compete with them in small waterways. I do not know whether it is known to Babu Annada Charan Dutta, but I have been told (I stand to correction if I am mistaken) that some Indian gentlemen, once, tried to start a service with two steamers. But what did the I.G.N. and R.S.N. people do? I believe that they carried passengers without charging any fares (I have also heard it said, but I am quite certain, that they promised to give away handkerchiefs to passengers who travelled by their steamers). This is the sort of company against whom we are asked to take steps. They are practically momopolist companies, and I say, without fear of contradiction, that the public have a right to enforce their views in connection with matters which touch the public more seriously than the companies themselves.

Babu Annada Charan Dutta has said that these companies do not earn large dividends, as has been asserted by the mover of this resolution, but he has taken good care not to mention what those dividends are. May I know from him what dividends they earn? Did they come here out of pity for us to start the service? I think it would have been better for Babu Annada Charan Dutta to ask this Council to vote an address of welcome to these companies for the great work of charity that they have come to do in this part of the country.

There are certain regulations which are always insisted on every company before a license is granted by Government to utilise their steamers for carrying passengers. I shall not go into the details of what these regulations are, but I beg to submit that the necessity of having waiting rooms at every steamer station should be and ought to be one of those conditions which must be insisted upon by Government. I do not know if my friend, Babu Annada Charan Dutta, has had the good fortune or rather the misfortune of waiting at a wayside station in the burning heat of the tropical sun or in the torrential rains. Perhaps, he has not had that misfortune, and that is the reason why he spoke so glibly that there is no necessity of having such waiting rooms. But those who have had the great misfortune of having to wait in the rains or in the burning sun at some of the wayside stations know what that means. There are hundreds of passengers, who have to go through the sad experience daily and they know what this means. To ask for certain waiting rooms is such a small matter, that I am struck with surprise that it can be opposed by any serious member of this Council.

As regards the fares, we believe that large dividends are earned by these two companies, but we need not go into the details. As has been pointed out by the mover of this resolution, the steamer companies have not to spend anything for making permanent tracks and keeping them up, like the railway companies. They have the use of the natural

waterways and rivers of Bengal, and I do not know whether they have any dredgers to improve the waterways. If they had any dredgers, we should not have been asked to vote such a large sum for the Grand Trunk Canal scheme; because, I believe that it was at the instance of these very steamer companies whom Babu Annada Charan Dutta wishes to help, and because they complained that the channels and waterways of the Sunderbans were silting up, that the Grand Trunk Canal scheme became necessary. If they were enthusiastic in their love for us, could they not spend some amount of money for dredgers? Under these circumstances, as we find that these companies have not to pay anything for the upkeep of the route, we ought to support this resolution wholeheartedly.

As regards the question of compulsion, I do not know what powers the Government have, but I do suppose that the Government have the power to compel the steamer companies to reduce their fares and to insist on certain conditions being fulfilled before licenses are granted to them as carriers of the public.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: In order to get enlightened on the subject I had to hear with attention the address just delivered by the mover of the resolution. I was labouring under a disadvantage, because I feared that I might be called upon to speak at a time when the opposite side of the question was not before the Council. But fortunately that drawback was removed, as my friend, Babu Annada Charan Dutta, has pleaded the case of the company before the Council. Certainly, from the facts and figures of the case as laid before the Council by the mover of the resolution it is quite plain that the company is not looking after the convenience of the public, but to my mind it is catering for its own greed and avarice. It is in fact right and proper that whatever company be formed in this country it should first of all look to the interest of the public; it is a wonder that this company which has all along been carrying passengers from station to station, has not seen it proper to have waiting rooms for passengers. This it could easily have done if it had a mind by keeping separate flats at every station. This, I am sure, would have removed the inconvenience.

The next thing on which a complaint has been made is that the rate of fare is much higher than what we are called upon to pay for railway journeys. This is also a complaint which could quite legitimately be made by the public, and arrangements should be made in order to see that this is removed. It might be said that the Government have no power to compel the company, and this has in fact been urged by Mr. Dutta. We may not have power to do so at the present moment so far as this resolution is concerned, but we know this much, that if in the first instance the Steam Navigation Company is asked to do as we desire, it knows that a request from the Government means that the company

must comply with it or else it will have to wind up. If we had any fear that if this company were to go, there would be no substitute to take its place in this country, then we would have hesitated to take steps; but as has been pointed out, several other companies were started but their efforts were stifled by this company, and from this, it is quite plain that there are people in this country who want to have companies of their own. Even if there were no enterprising persons in this country eager to start such companies, then we could have asked the Government submissively that it was the duty of the Government to see that companies were started on the lines of the Eastern Bengal Railway Company. Under the circumstances we should not hesitate to support the resolution and compel the company to do what is right.

At this stage the Council was adjourned for 15 minutes.

On the Council reassembling the President called upon the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr to reply.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): This resolution recommends the Government to compel the steamer companies to provide waiting rooms and to ask them to reduce their fares. I am not sure why the mover has made this distinction between the provision of waiting rooms and the reduction of the fares. But I think it will save a good deal of the misunderstanding that appears to exist if I explain at once that Government have no powers of compulsion whatever in regard to either of these matters. The legal position has been quite correctly stated by Babu Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta and Babu Annada Charan Dutta; and if it is true, as has been alleged, that Mr. Dutta is the legal representative of the steamer companies, it only adds weight to his view of the legal position. We have of course certain powers of control over the steamer companies under the Inland Steam Navigation Act. Under the provisions of that Act their steamers have to be surveyed and their officers have to be licensed by Government, and so forth, but we have no more power to compel the steamer companies to provide waiting rooms or to reduce their fares, than we have the power to compel Messrs. Whiteaway, Laidlaw & Co. to provide waiting rooms for their customers or to sell their goods at certain rates. It is of course true that the comfort and efficiency of the steamer services is a matter of some public interest; and we can, if we think it justifiable, make representations to the steamer companies in compliance with any requests that are made in this Council. I have no doubt that the steamer companies will be willing to listen to any reasonable requests or representations; but I submit that they should be reasonable and expressed in a reasonable manner. I do not think that in a matter like this it is in the real interest of the mover of the resolution and his friends that they should come to this Council and accuse the companies of dishonesty and of robbing the public, and so on.

Well, we have been in communication with the steamer companies with regard to these matters. I am sorry that Mr. Roy is not here to-day to defend the companies. I understand that he has been obliged to leave Calcutta. It is not my business to defend the companies; it is merely my business to state the facts as I find them. In regard to the question of waiting rooms, the companies have told us that they took up this question so far back as 1913; and they have since then erected a number of waiting rooms at steamer ghats and steamer stations; but during the war, owing to want of materials, the work was suspended; and the companies now say that they are prepared to proceed with the construction of waiting rooms at places where they are required, as soon as the price of materials falls to a reasonable level. They have told us further that they have been in communication with district boards and have made an offer to share with the district boards the cost of construction of waiting rooms at certain places where such construction would save the district boards from erecting rest-houses. From what they tell us I gather that the negotiations with the district boards have not made any great progress so far, and the companies tell us that the Bakarganj District Board have intimated that they have not sufficient funds for the purpose. This seems to me rather a pity, and subject to what the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Local Self-Government may think, it seems to me that this is a matter which greatly concerns local convenience and that local bodies might very well take it up with advantage to the residents in the areas with which they are concerned. The companies, however, warn us that it would be impracticable to erect waiting rooms at all stations owing to the changes which become necessary in the position of steamer ghats when the rivers change their course. The mover of the resolution has mentioned a number of places, where waiting rooms are said to be urgently necessary; and we will bring this point to the notice of the steamer companies; in fact I propose to send a complete record of this discussion to the steamer companies for their consideration.

As to the matter of fares, I also have got figures comparing the railway fares with those of the steamer companies. I am not sure whether it is very sound to compare the two things. I do not pretend to be a steamer expert or a railway expert, although in my present capacity I seem to be expected to know everything about all industries, from printing presses to tramways. However, there seem to be several good reasons why we cannot compare steamers with railway undertakings. The mover of the resolution has told us that it costs a lakh of rupees to lay a mile of railway track, and he says that the steamer companies do not have to undertake any expenditure like this. That no doubt is true, but I think he forgets that on railway tracks you can run traffic at all hours of the day and night; whereas a steamer can only carry a limited amount of traffic in each trip. However, as I say, I am not an expert in these matters and I do not wish to say much about

it. In regard to the actual figures which I have got, they show that on the main lines the steamer companies' fares vary from 3·3 pies per mile to 4·4 pies; the difference, I suppose, is due largely to the size of the steamers and the expenses of the establishment which have to be kept up on particular runs. The railway companies' fares on main lines vary between 3 and 4 pies per mile, which is a little less than the steamer fares. On the branch lines, the steamer companies charge from 2·53 pies to 3 pies per mile, which is considerably less than the railway fares on feeder and branch lines, which vary from 4 pies to 4½ pies per mile. On the whole, then, it may be said that there is nothing much to complain about in regard to the steamer fares from the point of view of comparison with the railway fares. A more important point is what the recent enhancements in steamer fares have amounted to. As regards this, I gave some particulars to the Council on the 4th April in answer to a question. I showed in my answer that intermediate and third class fares on all steamer services were increased by 10 per cent. in 1916 and again by 10 per cent. in January, 1921. In addition to this on three branch lines third class fares were increased by 10 per cent. in 1919; that is to say, since the war, the steamer companies' fares have been increased by only 20 per cent. on most lines and by 30 per cent. on certain branch lines. But having regard to the great increase in the cost of working the steamers, the increase of the cost of stores and in the payment of staff, the increase of the cost of repairs, and most important of all the rise in the price of coal, I do not think that we can say that the increases in fares which the steamer companies have effected can be regarded as excessive. I do not say that these increases have not caused a certain amount of hardship to the public and I did not say so in my answer. I said that Government were not aware that these increases had caused great hardship and inconvenience to the travelling public and that is perfectly true, as Government have not received any representation on the subject. I have no doubt that these increases do cause some hardship and inconvenience to poor people to whom a few annas is a matter of importance, but my point is whether we can call the increases which the steamer companies have effected during the last five years excessive, having regard to the circumstances I have mentioned. I do not think that Government would be justified at the present time in making representations to the steamer companies in the matter of fares. Government cannot, as I have indicated, accept the resolution as it stands, because it asks Government to do something which Government have no power to do. We shall, however, be prepared to send the record of this discussion to the steamer companies and ask them to consider the matter.

At this stage, Babu Bhabendra Chandra Ray and the Maharaja of Nadia moved that the closure be put.

The motion that the question be now put, was put and agreed to.

The PRESIDENT: The mover of the resolution has asked for permission to amend his motion by omitting the words "immediate steps be taken to compel" and putting in their stead the words "be asked." If there is no objection to this, the amended motion will run as follows:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that all steamship companies carrying on passenger traffic in Bengal, especially the India General Navigation and Railway and Rivers Steam Navigation Companies and their Managing Agents be asked to provide suitable waiting rooms at all their stations, and also that the abovenamed companies be asked to reduce their rates of fare to the rate charged by any of the State-owned railways in Bengal."

This was agreed to and on the amended motion being put, a division was taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Afzal, Khan Bahadur, Nawabzada K. M.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Barton, Mr. H.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Sir Ashutosh.
Das, Babu Bhishmadav.
Das Gupta, Babu Nibaran Chandra.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Ghatak, Rai Sahib Nilmani.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassir
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Maitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Mahendra Chandra Bahadur.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mullick, Babu Surendra Nath.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.

NOES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Bonerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Gupta, Mr. N. B.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Lang, Mr. J.
Lees, Mr. D. H.
Marr, Mr. A.
McKenzie, Mr. D. P.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
O'Malley, Mr. L. S. S.
O'Kinealy Lt.-Col. Frederick.
Raheem, Mr. Abdur.
Ray, Babu Bhabendra Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Satisja Nath.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.,
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 42, and the Noes 27, the motion was carried.

Bengal Pilot Service.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "This Council recommends to the Government—

(*a*) that immediate effect be given to the decision of the Public Services Commission to amend the rules prescribing that candidates for the Bengal Pilot Service must be Europeans or the descendants of European or Anglo-Indian parents;

(*b*) that application be made for the appointment of officers in England only after the Bengal Government is satisfied that no suitable candidates are available locally, and that experience in a sailing-vessel be not regarded as an essential qualification for admission to the service as decided by the Public Services Commission in 1916;

(*c*) that the foreign and travelling scholarships proposed to be given during the years for literary and other studies be made available for students willing to proceed to England for a Board of Trade certificate of competency as second mate or to join a mercantile training ship for master's certificate."

The resolution I have the privilege to submit to this Council aims at the removal of a long standing grievance of the sons of the soil against their most unjustifiable exclusion from the Pilot and wharfage services with the result that there is not a single Indian Pilot or Indian Harbour Master in the Port of Calcutta. The exclusion is so very unjustifiable that the Public Services Commission have peremptorily decided that this most invidious racial distinction must at once be removed.

Sir, the time is very short or I would have quoted at length from the report of the Public Services Commission. But on page 292 of then report, the Commissioners say that " there is no justification for excluding Non-Europeans from the Service on racial grounds. Further at page 293, we find: "the change we recommend is in regard to the rule prescribing that candidates for appointment must have served for two years in a square rigged sailing vessel. Sailing ships no longer come to Calcutta and experience in the handling of such vessels need no longer be regarded as an essential item in the training of a Hooghly pilot.

This regulation is also open to the objection that it operates unfairly against local candidates who for the most part are denied the opportunity of obtaining employment on sailing ships. We recommend that the rule should be abolished."

Next I quote from the minutes by Sir Abd-ur-Rahim at page 469: "In the department there are 55 officers of whom 39 are Europeans and 16 Anglo-Indians. They are paid from fees and their earnings vary between Rs. 600 and Rs. 2,000 or more a month. The present rules exclude Indians of pure Asiatic descent and I agree in the recommendation of the majority that the bar should be removed. This, however, will have no practical result unless the Government of Bengal sees

its way to provide facilities for the training of Indian youths for the work. There is at present a class of Muhammadans in Bengal" (he evidently forgot the Nurpur fishermen who are Hindus) "who would be extremely well suited for pilots' duties if trained. Many of them have proved themselves excellent navigators on the difficult rivers in Eastern Bengal and on the Hooghly. In fact the inland navigation of Bengal is mostly managed by them. They are generally self-trained and their educational qualifications are of a rudimentary character. But boys of this community, if trained, would supply very efficient material for the service."

From these quotations it is evident that the Public Services Commission not only recommended the removal of the racial bar against the Indians but also decided that in no case the Secretary of State should be asked to appoint any one to fill up the appointment until the same had been locally advertised. The wonder is that though in all other points about the increment of pay and pension regarding the recommendations of the Public Services Commission have been fully given effect to, these two definite decisions, which they found necessary to move an unsupportable and objectionable racial distinction are still being delayed. The plea that might be adduced is that no Indian would be available for such a service and there are none at present qualified for any of the posts. But is it not a commonsense view of the matter that until this fatal seal of racial exclusion be removed no Indian would be so very foolish as to undergo the expense and trouble to qualify for such posts? If anybody would doubt as to the capacity of Indians to undertake nautical work, I would invite him to watch the working of the Harbour Masters and Pilots in the port. It is no exaggeration to say that the highly paid Pilots and Harbour masters are often helpless without the active co-operation of the Nurpur fishermen. These poor Indians have admittedly been found very useful in the management of vessels up and down the Hooghly. Indian laskars, sukanees and serangs have firmly established their reputation even in the sea and the Government have recognised their services during the last naval warfare. For the information of those who hold that an educated Indian will never come forward for this service even when the racial bar is removed, I might here mention that, fighting against innumerable odds, one Bengali youth has already been successful in obtaining a berth as an officer in a merchant ship. I am proud to mention here the name of another Bengali who unfortunately for our country is no longer in this world. The memory of Lieutenant Roy is still green. He succeeded in entering His Majesty's Air Service during the late war and lost his life in France but not before attaining distinction in that service. Bengalis have never been found wanting in any sphere of activity provided they are afforded opportunities and had this disqualification been removed earlier, I believe, we might have been in a position to count a number of Bengali names in the nautical service of

this country. We should not forget that with this iniquitous racial bar staring them in the face no parents or guardians can allow their wards, however adventure-loving they may be, to adopt a course of life which can land them nowhere. There may be exceptions, and who has not heard of Captain Suresh joining the Brazilian service to satisfy his military and naval predilections. But unless these prejudicial restrictions be expunged no one with a normal frame of mind would indulge in having a training in such lines for a pastime.

The essential point now is—unless the Government is determined to flout the decisions of the Public Services Commission—to amend the rules of recruitment and to give wide publicity to the new condition after doing away with the racial disqualifications and sailing ship experience. But this is not all. As we have no training ships here and as all steamship lines are in the hands of foreigners, Government must hold out some encouragement to Bengali youths to go to England to qualify for the Board of Trade Certificate as master or to be trained in the training ships *Conway* and *Worcester* as second mate. For this as an experiment one or two scholarships should at once be offered. If there be any want of money, I would suggest diverting some of the educational qualifications offered by Government for various studies, namely, Comparative Philology, Critical method of learning oriental languages, etc. There is some apprehension that these young men on coming back may not find any ready berth at once or it may so happen that the various steamship companies may from racial prejudice refuse to take them in their services and thus they may get stranded. I, however, do not see the validity of such an argument or any reasonableness in such apprehension. As a matter of fact Government never guarantee any scholar to provide him with suitable appointment on return. I know of State Scholars in Agriculture now carrying on business of their own and one in Philology has returned about four years ago and has not yet got any appointment. I cannot therefore accept the plea of the want of immediate prospect as a valid argument against establishing one or two scholarships to train our youths as naval officers, masters or second mates and make them eligible for the posts of pilots and harbour masters, if not as officers and masters in troopships, mercantile marines, etc. Some of these scholarship holders may go in for degrees in Naval Architecture and on return may find employment in the Royal Indian Docks in Calcutta or Bombay or in any of the private docks.

In conclusion, my humble submission is that Government has, without any justification whatsoever, neglected to carry out the clear and distinct decisions of the Public Services Commission and cannot with any decency make any further delay in blotting out this racial incapacity for Indian youths to enter this service in the ports of Calcutta etc., and I earnestly request the authorities to give practical proof of their sympathy by arranging to grant suitable scholarships for nautical training abroad.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I have great pleasure in seconding this resolution which aims at removing an anomaly in the service conditions of a most important department of the State. In the Public Services Commission report the subject of today's resolution was dealt with in all its aspects. It seems to me a puzzle that practical effect has not been given to the recommendations of the Commission in this particular matter all this time. Certain statements of the officers of the Pilot service made before the Commission as well as a portion of the statement of Mr. C. J. Kerr, representative of the Port Commissioners of Calcutta, will, no doubt, bear repetition here. In the report of the Commission under the heading "Pilot Service" and sub-heading "Employment of non-Europeans" Commander G. M. Forteath, R.I.M., Port Officer, Calcutta (1914), is stated to have said: "I see no reason why Anglo-Indians and others should not enter the service." Messrs C. D. Budge and G. F. Thorpe, Branch Pilots, in their evidence said that "there was no disposition on the part of the Indians to enter the service and the subject need not seriously be considered." Mr. Kerr said, "there is no demand on the part of the natives of India to enter the Pilot service." But those are old tales of old days. The war has changed the whole aspect of the world and this country has also changed. The youths of the country are now anxious to prove that they are equal to all tasks and risks and they are worthy of all trust and responsibility. The Bengali youths proved plucky, cool, determined and daring in the field of Flanders and I can confidently assert, that, given proper opportunity, they will prove worthy members of the Bengal Pilot service. The anomaly of the situation which proved an unjustifiable bar to their entry into this particular branch of the public service is no longer to exist. Government have made up its mind to do justice in this matter to the sons of the soil.

My submission to the House, therefore, is that this matter ought to be considered by them.

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: If opportunity is given, I think there will not be any dearth of candidates. I know that for a Board of Trade Master's certificate Mr. B. Chaudhuri of Burdwan has already served his five years' term in the ship-building yard and docks of Messrs Martin and Co. of Calcutta as a Foreman-Mechanic and has proceeded to the United Kingdom where he has already completed 15 months out of 18 months' term as Third Engineer of a Mercantile Marine. On the completion of the remaining three months' term he will be eligible for the Master's examination. With these few words I beg to support the resolution.

MEMBER in charge of MARINE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): The first two clauses of this resolution ask us to give effect to the proposals of the Public Services Commission in regard to the Bengal pilot Service. This, however, has already been done and I think

in conversation I mentioned this to the hon'ble member. After the usual corespondence with the Government of India and the Secretary of State, in May last year, we got the Secretary of State's final orders, authorising us to alter our rules in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission. The rules now provide that any statutory natives of India, if duly qualified, will be eligible for these appointments. They also provide that the Government of Bengal will use every endeavour to ascertain the existence of suitable local candidates before applying to the Secretary of State for India for the selection of candidates in England. There is no provision in the rules requiring experience in a sailing vessel to be regarded as an essential qualification for appointment in the Service. That rule was, I believe, abrogated some time ago owing to the small number of sailing vessels now available. We have, therefore, no objection in accepting the first two clauses of the resolution, because, as I have said, they have already been embodied in the rules.

No case of recruitment has come up since I took charge of the Marine Department three months ago, but when the question of recruitment does arise, I need hardly say that I shall follow the rules in the letter and in the spirit. There is now a Standing Committee attached to the Marine Department; and I further undertake to consult them on the occasion of the next recruitment for the service and see what steps we can take to get suitable Indian candidates.

That is all I have to say, so far as the first two clauses of the resolution are concerned. The third part of the resolution is more difficult and I must say that I have had some difficulty in understanding what exactly the mover wants. I have, however, informally discussed the matter with him and from that discussion and from his speech I gather that his object is to afford Indian youths who wish to take up a seafaring career every opportunity of doing so. But for this purpose a course of training on a training ship in England is not essential. Not only is it not essential but it is not sufficient. The requirements for a second Mate's certificate are either four years' service at sea, or, as an alternative, two years' service in a training ship and three years' sea-service. For a Master's certificate, the requirements are six years' service at sea, of which one year must be service as second Mate while holding a first Mate's certificate, and two and a half years must be service in charge of a watch as third or fourth Mate, while holding a second Mate's certificate. All these certificates can be obtained in India and it is not necessary for a candidate to undergo training in a training ship in England. Nor is it necessary, as appears to be supposed, for a candidate for the Pilot Service to hold a Mate's certificate. It is true that the nautical examination which will be held here if we get suitable candidates, requires a knowledge in navigation and seamanship up to the standard of a second Mate's certificate, but the actual requirements under the rules are four years' service in a Merchant vessel employed in foreign trade either as a Seaman or as an Apprentice. These then

are the essential qualifications for Mate's and Master's certificates and for entrance into the Pilot Service; and in none of these cases is a course in a training ship in England essential. The fact is that the real difficulty is not the course in a training ship but, as we have found in connection with our enquiries about the nautical school, the fact that there will be a considerable amount of difficulty in finding ship-owners who are willing to take Indians as apprentices. It is no use concealing this difficulty, and until it is overcome there must be considerable obstacles in the way of educated Indians wishing to take up a sea-faring career. Even if we found an Indian youth willing to go to England for training with a scholarship, there would be a considerable risk that at the end of this training he would find it wasted, either because he was not willing himself to go to sea or because no ship-owner would take him. These are serious difficulties to be overcome, but the mover apparently asks us to provide facilities for boys to go to England on the off-chance that they would get service in merchant vessels. We must remember in this connection that the foreign scholarships referred to in the resolution are granted by the Government of India and not by us. They are granted for the purpose of enabling Indian boys to get a training in England or in other foreign countries which they cannot get in their own country. But they are granted on the assumption that the Indian boys will be able to make use of this training when they come back to their own country. As I have said, we are not quite satisfied that Indian boys would be able to make good use of such training even if we were in a position to send them to England for a nautical course. The money, available for these scholarships is limited and we are not prepared, as things stand at present, to go to the Government of India and ask them to allot a certain sum for sea-training by taking away sums allotted for other subjects. If conditions change or if we receive applications from any Indian boys willing to undergo sea-training and if, on enquiry, we find that the difficulties can be overcome, we shall be prepared to consider the matter further. But, as matters stand, at present we are not prepared to go up to the Government of India and ask them to make a scholarship available on such conditions as are mentioned in the resolution. That is to say, we are not prepared to accept the third clause of the resolution or to take action at present upon it.

Dr. Rai HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: After what has fallen from the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr, I am disposed to withdraw the third clause of my resolution and ask the Council to accept the first and second clauses. The third clause can be taken up later on after we have seen what the Standing Committee does. I would ask the permission of the House to withdraw the third clause.

Leave was given to withdraw the third clause.

The first and second clauses were then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, the time allotted for non-official usiness is over and the remaining resolutions cannot be taken up now. f members in whose names these motions stand desire them to be taken p during another session they must give fresh notice to the Legislative)epartment. This does not apply to the two resolutions on the City ivil Court which have been postponed with the leave of the Council.

I adjourn the Council to 3 o'clock to-morrow as His Excellency has xpressed his intention to address the Council in exercise of his powers nder section 72 of the Government of India Act. Perhaps it would be [illegible] be in their seats by 2-50 P.M.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council assembled at 2-50 P.M. on the 7th April, 1921, in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 114 nominated and elected members.

Budget Grants.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda): Order! Order! The Hon'ble Mr. Kerr.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr): In accordance with section 92 of the Bengal Legislative Council Rules and Standing Orders, I beg to lay on the table a statement showing the action taken by the local Government in the case of certain demands which have been refused or reduced by the Council together with a copy of the certificate granted by His Excellency the Governor, under section 72D (*2*) (*a*) of the Government of India Act.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MULLICK: May I have a look at the statement which has just been placed on the table by the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr?

The PRESIDENT: It is placed on the table and you can see it after the Council is adjourned. His Excellency will be coming in in a few minutes.

The statements were as follows:—

8—FORESTS.

I hereby certify that the expenditure provided for by the demand of Rs 13,200 for two temporary Imperial Service officers of the Forest Department, under the head "8—Forests—(B) Establishment," is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

RONALDSHAY,
Governor of Bengal.

The 6th April, 1921.

His Excellency the Governor having certified, under proviso (*a*) to section 72D (*2*) of the Government of India Act in relation to the demand of Rs. 13,200 for two temporary Imperial Service officers of the Forest Department, under the head

"8—Forests—(B) Establishment," that this expenditure is essential to the discharge of his responsibility for the subject, the Government of Bengal direct that the above demand be shown in the Civil Estimates under the above head as if it had been assented to by the Legislative Council.

A. MARR,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

The 6th April, 1921.

22F—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

I hereby certify that the expenditure provided for by the demand of Rs 7,287 for the Director of Information and his staff up to the 15th June 1921, under the head "22F—General Administration," is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

RONALDSHAY,

Governor of Bengal.

The 6th April, 1921.

His Excellency the Governor having certified, under proviso (*a*) to section 72D(*2*) of the Government of India Act in relation to the demand of Rs. 7,287 for the Director of Information and his staff up to the 15th June 1921, under the head "22F—General Administration," that this expenditure is essential to the discharge of his responsibility for the subject, the Government of Bengal direct that the above demand be shown in the Civil Estimates under the above head as if it had been assented to by the Legislative Council.

A. MARR,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

The 6th April, 1921.

24—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

I hereby certify that the expenditure provided for by the demand of Rs.37,600 for the Additional Legal Remembrancer and his establishment, under the head "24—Administration of Justice—(B) Law Officers," is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

RONALDSHAY,

Governor of Bengal

The 6th April, 1921.

His Excellency the Governor having certified, under proviso (*a*) to section 72D (*2*) of the Government of India Act in relation to the demand of Rs. 37,600 for the Additional Legal Remembrancer and his establishment, under the head "24—Administration of Justice—(B) Law officers," that this expenditure is essential to the discharge of his responsibility for the subject, the Government of Bengal direct that the above demand be shown in the Civil Estimates under the above head as if it had been assented to by the Legislative Council.

A. MARR,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal

The 6th April, 1921.

The Registrar to the Council then announced to the President that His Excellency the Governor was without.

The President then left his seat on the *dais* and met His Excellency at the door of the Chamber. His Excellency then entered the Chamber with the Hon'ble the President and, at the request of the President, took his seat.

His Excellency the Governor's Address.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR of BENGAL (the Earl of Ronaldshay): MR. PRESIDENT,—The first session of the Legislative Council under the new constitution comes to a close to-day; but before proroguing, it seems desirable that I should say something on the subject of the constitution which came into operation a few short weeks ago. The constitution under which we are working is, indeed, not only new but novel; and the intentions of Parliament with regard to its working have to be sought for and carefully studied in the various documents in which they are embodied. I think, if I may say so, that the Legislative Council has looked at its duties in respect to the Budget from a somewhat different angle of vision—to make use of a phrase which has come into frequent use in connection with the reform scheme—to that from which Parliament viewed them. I hope, when I say this, that it will not be thought that I desire to be controversial. That is the last thing in the world that I desire. But I, too, have duties under the new constitution; and it is important that I should make it clear in discharging them that I am acting in strict accordance with the intentions of Parliament. I shall confine myself to the Budget of the reserved half of Government, and I shall state as clearly as I can why I think that your treatment of it has not been quite in accordance with the intentions of Parliament. To be quite frank, then, you have treated it as if the reserved half of the Government was responsible to you—in other words you have treated it as you are constitutionally justified in treating the transferred half of the Government: which amounts to saying this, that you have acted as if there was no difference between the reserved and the transferred halves into which Government has been divided. This is of course not so. There is a great and fundamental difference between the two. The fundamental difference arises out of the fact that whereas the Ministers in charge of the transferred subjects are responsible to you, the Members in charge of the reserved subjects are not. Let me examine the bearing of this fundamental difference between the position occupied by Ministers and that occupied by Members of the Executive Council, upon the position which you yourselves occupy in relation to the transferred and reserved budgets, respectively. The Ministers being responsible to you, are quite properly dependent upon you for the granting of supply. If you refuse to vote the supply asked for, the Ministers have their remedy. They can transfer the responsibility for carrying on the administration

with what they regard as inadequate funds from their own shoulders to yours—in other words, they can resign, and those who have refused them the supply can be called on to assume the responsibility of administration in their place. That is a perfectly well understood feature of responsible self-government. But the position of the reserved half of the Government is an entirely different one. Supposing that you refuse to grant me in my capacity as head of the reserved half of Government the supply which I regard as necessary, what can I do? I cannot come to you as I would if I were a Minister and say to you, "Under these circumstances I cannot carry on the administration and I therefore tender you my resignation." Someone may, perhaps, ask "Why not?" The reason is plain, namely, that you have neither the power to accept my resignation nor to appoint anyone else to take my place. In other words, because in respect of reserved subjects I am responsible to Parliament and not to the Legislative Council. But you may reply that I can tender my resignation to the Secretary of State as representing Parliament, with a request that it be submitted to His Majesty the King. Supposing that I were to do that, what would the Secretary of State reply? Surely he would say, "No, it was not the intention of Parliament under such circumstances that you should resign and it was for this reason that Parliament inserted in the Act, clause 72D (*2*) (*a*) empowering you to secure the supply which you regard as essential." Perhaps you will say that it was not intended by Parliament that the use of this power should be regarded as part of the normal procedure under the constitution, but that it should only be employed in exceptional circumstances and that to make use of it except in the most exceptional circumstances, is an arbitrary abuse of power. Indeed I think I have seen that view expressed in print already by a member of this Council. That is a view, however, which it is impossible to sustain in face of the perfectly clear declaration of Parliament itself upon the point. The declaration in question appears in the report of the Joint Select Committee. It is a declaration of the utmost importance, and since it does not seem to have attracted the attention which it deserves, I propose to quote it *verbatim* from the report. It runs as follows: "Where the Council have reduced a provision for a reserved subject which the Governor considers essential to the proper administration of the subject concerned, he will have a power of restoration." And then follow words to which I would direct your special attention: "The committee wish it to be perfectly clear that this power is real and that its exercise should not be regarded as unusual or arbitrary; unless the Governor has the right to secure supply for these services for which he remains responsible to Parliament, that responsibility cannot be justly fastened upon him." Well there we have a perfectly plain declaration of the position with regard to the reserved budget under the new constitution. It leaves no sort of loophole for doubt as to what the intentions of Parliament are; and it is in light of this declaration that it seems to me, as I have already said, that you have approached the Budget

from a point of view which differs, somewhat from that intended by Parliament. You may not unnaturally ask, "Why, then, did Parliament give to the Legislative Councils the right of moving reductions in the case of reserved subjects?" I think the intention was that you might have the means of obtaining from Government information in connection with such subjects. No doubt it was also intended that you should have a means of making your opinions known on questions of policy affecting reserved subjects and in extreme cases giving emphasis to your wishes by voting an actual reduction of supply. But in view of all that has been said upon the subject in the report of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament I cannot suppose that it was ever intended that such strong measures should be adopted as part of the regular practice of the Council.

I hope that you will not think that anything that I have said is intended to be in any way in the nature of a rebuke. Far from it. I know well how difficult you must have found your position, faced as you have been with a huge deficit arising out of the financial settlement which has been fastened upon us. I know how keenly you must have felt the necessity for attempting to effect economies wherever that seemed possible. I have dwelt at length upon the constitutional position, with no sort of desire to attribute blame but with the sole purpose of making it perfectly clear that any action which I feel called upon to take under clause 72D of the Government of India Act is not taken by way of protest against any action which you have thought fit to take, but solely in the discharge of my responsibility to Parliament—a responsibility which, whether I like it or not, I am compelled to bear. And there is only one other comment, I think, which I need make in dealing with the nature of the constitution, and that is this, that while it is quite clear that it was the intention of Parliament that, in the event of such a situation arising the Governor should exercise his right to restore grants in the reserved budget freely it must also be clear that the necessity for a constant resort to the use of this power can mean only one thing, namely, the existence of a practically unbridgeable cleavage of opinion extending over the whole administrative field between the Governor and the Council. If such a state of affairs came into existence I think the Governor himself would realise that his usefulness either to Government or to the province had come to an end, and he would in such circumstances be justified, I think, in demanding release from responsibilities which he was no longer able satisfactorily to discharge. I do not make this comment out of any considerations personal to myself. It is to be regarded as a purely dispassionate and impersonal statement of a situation which might conceivably arise under the new constitution as I understand it. If things so turned out that such a situation did become applicable in my own case I should accept it in good part; for my position is this, that I am ready and anxious to serve Bengal so long as I feel I can do so with advantage, but I should be equally ready to give place to someone else if I came to the conclusion that my continuance in office was no longer of advantage to

he Province. Nor, if I came to such a conclusion, should I regard it as necessarily casting discredit either upon myself or upon those with whom I differed, for I hold the view that a really irreconcilable difference of opinion can only arise out of deep and honest conviction discreditable to neither of the parties concerned.

Now having said so much let me take one by one the items in the reserved budget in respect of which grants have been refused or reductions made. Government accepted the reductions asked for by the Council in respect of the following items: Additional circle officers, Rs. 1,00,000; provincialization of Steam Boilers Commission, Rs. 52,000 net; and hill allowance a sum which will probably fall not far short of Rs. 40,000.

Then I come to reductions carried against Government. First a reduction of Rs. 20,000 under Major head 8—Forests. I have considered this with great care. The Forest Department is a revenue-producing department; and it is all to the interests of the Province that its operations should be extended. We have been greatly handicapped in recent years by shortage of staff, and so urgent had the matter become that failing permanent officers the recruitment of five temporary officers was sanctioned. Up to the present we have only succeeded in securing two—Mr. Gammie and Mr. Morde; and it is the pay of these two officers that has been refused. Mr. Morde who is an officer of the Bengal Provincial Service is at present engaged on important boundary work in the Jalpaiguri and Buxar forest divisions and it would be impossible to remove him at this moment without detriment to that work. In deference to the vote of the Council I shall be prepared to let him revert from the Forests to the Bengal Civil Service as soon as he has completed his present task, though I confess that it is with some reluctance that I do so. Mr. Gammie is serving on a two years' agreement and began work on the 18th of January last. I have consulted the Conservator of Forests who assures me that unless important work is to be allowed to fall into abeyance he simply cannot be spared. Last year the Forest Department brought in a net revenue of Rs. 10,00,000 to Government. That is to say, after paying the whole of its cost it proved to be a source of income to that extent; and I am satisfied that on financial grounds alone it is in the interest of the Province that Mr. Gammie should continue his work.

Next comes a reduction of Rs. 25,000 under the head 22—General Administration. This is in respect of the salary of the Director of Information and his staff. This officer was appointed because we were always being told that Government worked in the dark and never told the public what it was doing. I thought the criticism was a just one myself, and I thought that a director of information would fill a real want by keeping the public supplied with accurate information. However, I do not wish to press my opinion against that of the Council and I therefore accept their decision. The present holder of the post, however, cannot be discharged before June next since we are under agreement with him up to

hat time and in order to avoid a breach of contract, it will be necesary or me to certify a sufficient sum to enable Government to meet its liabilities up to that date.

Under Head 24—the Administration of Justice—reductions have been made in respect of provision for the preparation of paper books in the High Court; and for the additional Legal Remembrancer and his establishment. I cannot say what action will be taken in connection with the first of these two items because I am not responsible for the administration of the High Court, which is under the Government of India, and I have not yet received instructions in the matter. So far as the second item is concerned, I again defer to the wishes of the Council. Some small grant will be necessary because the additional Legal Remembrancer cannot be summarily dismissed, at least a month's notice being necessary. At the same time, while deferring to the wishes of the Council in this matter I would like to place on record Government's high appreciation of the manner in which Mr. P. L. Roy has discharged his duties, and to this I would add an expression of my feelings of personal regret at the severance of my official relations with him.

Under head 41—Civil Works in charge of Public Works officers, a number of reductions has been made, as follows:—

		Rs.
1.	For the partition of Mymensingh	6,00,000
2.	For the partition of Midnapore	7,25,000
3.	For a residence for the Chief Justice	1,00,000
4.	For the police hospital at Bhowanipur	4,86,000
5.	For quarters for the Calcutta Police at Lal Bazaar ...	2,83,000

In two out of these five cases there seem to me to be grave objections to the reduction, namely, in those of Midnapore and of the quarters at Lal Bazaar. In each instance I should be prepared to justify my opinion on the merits of the case alone. But in these particular instances there are considerations of a financial character in addition, which in my opinion weigh heavily in the scale. I think there has been some misunderstanding with regard to the police quarters. The simple facts are these. There is a small piece of land which impinges upon the compound of the police headquarters at Lal Bazaar. It is bounded on two sides by streets and on the other two sides by the compound of the police quarters itself. I have inspected it myself and I can best describe its position by saying that geographically it is a part of the compound. I am satisfied that it is most desirable that it should be acquired; and further that it should be acquired without delay because the longer we delay the greater will be the price which we shall eventually have to pay for it. I should regard it as important that we should acquire the land even if we did not require it urgently for further accommodation. But it is urgently required for additional quarters. Quarters are required for the accommodation of

certain married officers who cannot obviously be housed in the single men's barracks even if there was room for them there. The officers for whom these quarters are required are three assistant commissioners, eight inspectors and twelve sergeants. On grounds of efficiency it is extremely desirable that these officers should be housed at headquarters and not scattered over the town. On grounds of economy it is desirable that we should construct quarters for them because we are already obliged to pay rent for houses for them to the amount of Rs. 27,000 a year, with the practical certainty of this sum increasing in the near future.

The case of Midnapore stands in a class by itself. It is not a new scheme. It was accepted on two occasions by the late Legislative Council, and it received the final approval of the Secretary of State in all its details more than two and a half years ago. Before that time we had received the sanction of the Secretary of State to proceed with the work of collecting materials for the necessary building operations and that was explained to the Legislative Council in the course of the Budget debate so long ago as March, 1918, when financial provision to start work was made. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that the amount already spent is large. The amount of money actually paid out is in round figures Rs. 8,26,000, that is to say, Rs. 78,000 for the acquisition of land and Rs. 7,48,000 for buildings. But this sum does not represent the amount already spent, because it does not include bills for work done amounting to Rs. 1,47,000 which are now due. The amount already spent, therefore, is Rs. 9,73,000. Nor does the story end here. The work being in progress, contracts are in force; and it is estimated that the cost of terminating existing contracts would amount to something not far short of three lakhs of rupees. Supposing, then, that I have to order work to cease, what will the position of Government be? Why this—it will be out of pocket to the extent of nearly Rs. 13,00,000 and as a set-off against this large expenditure it will be in possession of a number of unfinished buildings which would be altogether useless. It has been suggested that we might find purchasers for these buildings. I see no prospect whatsoever of any purchasers being forthcoming for I cannot conceive to what use, other than that for which they are intended, buildings such as the collectorate or the jail buildings could be put. Moreover, as I have said, I am prepared to justify my opinion in the case upon its merits. I am in complete agreement with the view put forward in this Council by Maulvi Saiyid Nasim Ali who obviously spoke with an intimate personal knowledge of the actual conditions of the district; and I am convinced that not only in the interests of good administration, which after all is a matter of real importance to the masses of the people, but in the interests of successful local self-government also it is desirable that this project should be completed.

The same arguments can be urged in the case of Mymensingh; but in this case we are not nearly so heavily committed as in the case of Midnapore. We have spent some money certainly, but not nearly so much